ACROSS / A19

Landslide crushes Ifugao houses; 9 dead METED / A24

Suicide or murder? Cops probing QC police superintendent's death



**ENTERTAINMENT/F1** 'Bubble Gang' stars, crew take comedy seriously



SPORTS / A27

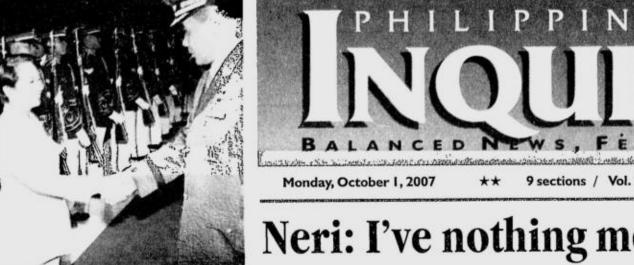
**Archers thwart Eagles**, forge UAAP Finals clash with Warriors

#### Cell phones double as electronic wallets

SAN MIGUEL, BULACAN-IT'S THURSDAY, so 18-year-old Dennis Tiangco is off to a bank to collect his weekly allowance, zapped by his mother-who's working in Hong Kong-to his electronic wallet: his cell

Sauntering into a branch of GM Bank here, Dennis fills out a form, sends a text

**CELL PHONES/ A8** 



SHE'S BACK. President Macapagal-Arroyo returns from New York and is welcomed by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon with arrival honors at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. (See story on Page A2.)

9 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 295 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

# Neri: I've nothing more to say on GMA

By Juliet L. Javellana, Leila B. Salaverria and Dona Pazzibugan

SENATORS WHO HOPE THAT ROMULO Neri will provide crucial testimony directly linking President Macapagal-Arrovo to the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) deal are in for a big disappointment.

Neri yesterday indicated that he had nothing more to say to the Senate committees investigating the \$329-million contract for the NBN project that was awarded to China's ZTE Corp.

"The Senate grilled me for 12 hours. Did they miss on any significant question?" he said in a text message to the INQUIRER when asked if he had said everything he needed to say to the sena-

Neri was the director general of the National Economic and Development confidence that Neri would not reveal Authority (Neda) when the NBN project was approved and the deal

Now chair of the Commission on Higher Education, Neri sent word to the INQUIRER that he had said all he

wanted to say about the ZTE deal.

Citing the confidential nature of his conversations with the President on the NBN project, he hoped the senators would respect the principle of execu-

Malacañang yesterday expressed anything potentially damaging to the President.

"We trust Secretary Neri in his good sense and his sense of duty to his President," Presidential Management Staff



# World pressures Burma

### UN envoy talks with Suu Kyi, junta chiefs

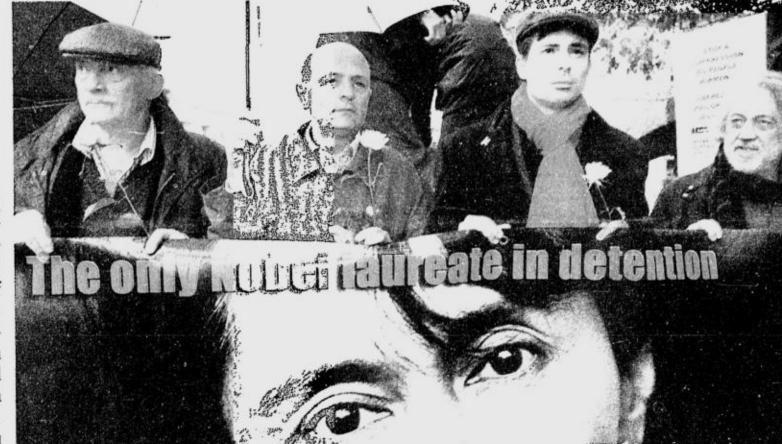
RANGOON-A UN ENvoy held back-to-back meetings on Sunday with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the military rulers of (Myanmar) Burma amid growing international calls for the junta to bring a peaceful end to its crackdown on prodemocracy protests.

The separate talks occurred as thousands of troops locked down Burma's largest cities on Sunday. Scores of people were arrested overnight, further weakening an uprising to end 45 years of military dictatorship.

Pope Benedict XVI joined world leaders in expressing serious concern about the situation in Burma. About 1 percent of the country's 54 million people are Catholics. Another 3 percent belong to other Christian denominations.

A senior Japanese official al-

WORLD/A12



SUU KYI LINE. Amnesty International militants hold up a poster of Burmese Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi during a demonstration in Brussels against the military dictatorship in Burma, which drew international outrage when its troops cracked down on prodemocracy protesters and Buddhist monks in Rangoon.

## Burma protest movement has not been smothered

By Amando Doronila

THE TEMPTATION TO DRAW contrasts between the carnage in Rangoon (Yangon) last week as Burmese security forces brutally cracked down on peaceful ing "Democracy, democracy," protesters demanding an end to the sight evoked nostalgic im-

lution is hard to resist.

ple, spearheaded by 30,000 monks, took to the streets chant-

ages among Filipino viewers

pines' 1986 People Power revo- that the human wave of a mil- matic rifles at the protesters and lion that engulfed the advanc-When a sea of 100,000 peo- ing tanks of the Marcos dicta-

> be replicated in Bur- Japanese photographer. ma (Myanmar).

This turned out to be a short-

lived illusion. Instead, soldiers fired auto-

riot police swung their clubs at fleeing demonstrators, leaving torship was about to at least 13 dead, including a

> The vivid pictures of that crackdown that dominated the TV screen and the front pages of

## NY judge won't clear RP nurses

A NEW YORK STATE JUDGE has refused to throw out criminal charges against 10 nurses from the Philippines who were arrested after they quit their jobs at a Long Island nursing home during a labor dispute.

The nurses resigned without notice from the Avalon Gardens Rehabilitation Health Care Center in Smithtown on Long Island, east of New York City, during the spring of 2006, forcing the facility to scramble to cover their shifts.

No harm was done to patients, but Suffolk County prosecutors accused the nurses of criminal conspiracy and endangering the welfare of children for leaving their jobs so abruptly.

Some of the home's residents included disabled children in a pediatric unit.

State regulators cleared the nurses of any administrative wrongdoing last fall, but the facility hired a lawyer and pressed District Attorney Thomas Spota to file a criminal case anyway.

The judge, Robert Doyle, denied a motion to dismiss the NY JUDGE/ A8



#### Lani who? **Appellate court** spurns actress

By Leila B. Salaverria

WHAT'S IN A NAME? TO ACtress Lani Mercado-Revilla, it makes a world of difference-but she still needs the court to be on her side.

The wife of actor-senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. suffered a setback in her bid to change the name on her birth certificate from Jesusa Victoria Garcia Hernandez to Lani Mercado-Revilla when the Court of Appeals ruled against her.

LANI, WHO?/ A8

#### BURMA/ A12 military rule and the Philip-Midwives are RP's new health care heroines

By Tessa R. Salazar

AS THE EXODUS OF DOCTORS and nurses continues, stories of how midwives-our "barefoot doctors"-are soldiering on in far-flung areas are aplenty.

One early morning in 1993, Teresita Dodon braved heavy rains to travel to Sablan,

immunization project. She was crossing the highway at Camp Dangwa when she was sideswiped by a bus.

Dodon's life was ended by the accident, but it became the inspiration for her fellow midwives.

For her outstanding work, she was recognized posthu-

Benguet, for her door-to-door mously by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

The Civil Service Commission also gave her the Dangal (Honor) award. The inscription read: "As she lay dead on the road, she was still protectively clutching the vaccines and medical paraphernalia, the tools of the trade she loved so much."

Aeta midwife Jeana de la Cruz, who conducts prenatal checkups and immunizations in the mountain villages of Castillejos, Zambales, is likewise outstanding.

De la Cruz narrated on the phone the difficult journeys she made to attend to women with complicated pregnancies, who,

despite their condition, had to ride on carabao-drawn carts.

Just last week, she was called upon to remove a placenta from a 15-year-old mother. The village hilot (or self-trained physical therapist) was able to deliver the infant, but the placenta was left in the mother's womb.

MIDWIVES, A8

### He serves arrest warrants on VIPs

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR THREE DECADES NOW, Edgardo Urieta has hovered like a shadow over the Philippine criminal justice system, serving arrest warrants on VIPs suspected of having run afoul of the law, and keeping them out of harm's way upon their prosecution.

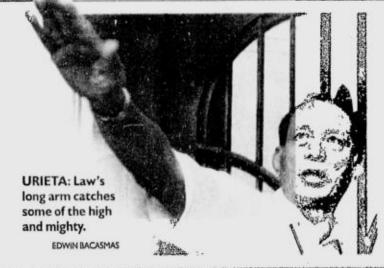
As Sandiganbayan chief sheriff, Urieta has been an eye-

when the long arm of the law finally catches up with some of the country's hitherto high and mighty, and they in turn submit themselves to their fate like ordinary mortals.

There were the late military chief Gen. Fabian Ver, former first lady Imelda Marcos, business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, ex-Sen. Francisco Tatad and ex-military comptroller

witness to dramatic moments Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia. The most celebrated person on Urieta's list is ousted President Joseph Estrada, who two weeks ago was found guilty of plunder and sentenced to a maximum 40-year jail term.

> "Many people believe that he (Estrada) is nonsensical, a womanizer as portrayed in many text jokes. But he can be profound, too," Urieta told the HE SERVES/ A6



GINGLY NATURE TANK WAS A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

EZ2

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Central and Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain-showers and thunderstorms. Rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunder-

storms. Metro Manil	a Mostly Cloudy	Hollo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy		
Bagulo	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy		
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy		
Lnoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy		
Clark Zono	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy		
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy		
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy		
Calapan COMPLED BY: F	Mostly Cloudy THEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEA	Bavao RCH/09/30/07	Partly Cloudy SOURCE PAGASA		

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# Second ONTPAGE

E KUNG GANOON, BAKIT MARAMI PA RIN TAYONG BASURAP

(In exact order) Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening 6) 2 2 5 5 6

**SUPERLOTTO 6/49** 17 22 25 32 39 44 P8,000,000.00

# Jpepa favors RP on waste'

# DENR says more toxic trash will leave country than come in

WHAT'S INSIDE

**ERAP WANTS** more time with ma, cool to pardon

/A10

**OTHER FIGHTS** distract Army from war with Reds

/A13

M TALK TO MEDIA, Army chief advises commanders

/A13

By TJ Burgonio

THE PROPOSED JAPAN-PHILIPPINES ECONOMic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) would facilitate the continued shipment by the Philippines of hazardous waste to Japan, but not the other way around.

ment and Natural Resources official made this fresh pitch for the Jpepa after the Senate foreign relations committee indicated it would not recommend against its ratification.

Environment Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio said the country exported an average of 10million kilos of hazardous waste to nine countries over the past two years since it lacked a waste treatment facility.

The bulk of this was shipped to Japan, he said.

The waste exports totaled

A Department of Environ- 11.4-million kg in 2005, and 10.7 million in 2006.

As of July this year, some 1.7million kg had been shipped

Of the nine countries, which include South Korea, the United States, Germany, Singapore, Finland, Thailand, France and the Netherlands, Japan emerged as the No. 1 destination for waste from the Philippines.

Of the total waste exports, 47.3 percent was shipped to Japan in 2005 and 27.8 percent in 2006. As of July this year, 42.7 percent has gone to Japan.

disposal for Philippine hazardous waste in Japan. If the tariffs are lowered, then there will be less costs for us to export the waste," Ignacio told reporters.

But Richard Gutierrez, Asia-Pacific director of Basel Action Network, scoffed at the claim as "another palliative" to convince the public to accept the trade treaty.

The sustainable approach to waste is to prevent their generation, look for ways to reduce them, and if these two are not enough, focus on other ways of disposal, he pointed out.

"With or without Jpepa, we're exporting waste. We don't need this treaty. What the DENR isn't telling us is that we're importing more waste than we're exporting," Von Hernandez of Greenpeace said.

After three hearings by the foreign relations committee, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago

the benefits of the treaty.

Ignacio also said that contrary to perception, Jpepa does not mention anything about allowing the entry of toxic wastes into the country.

"It's not true. Under Jpepa, toxic wastes are considered Japanese goods. Look at Annex 1, Article 29, subsections I, J and L on the definition of originating goods, wastes are included as goods coming from Japan," Gutierrez said.

The fact that hazardous wastes are under a zero taffif regime encourages dumping of waste in the country," Hernandez said.

Ignacio explained that hazardous wastes were included in Jpepa because the harmonized system, a uniform classification of all goods traded in the world, was adopted in the Jpepa nego-

But he made the assurance ing

"This Jpepa can facilitate the remained unconvinced about the country would prohibit the entry of such waste in compliance with its own laws, and the Basel Ban Convention, and that Japan would respect this.

> "Any toxic waste can only enter the country by smuggling, whether you have Jpepa or not," he said.

Ignacio, however, admitted that Jpepa would allow the importation of recyclables containing hazardous substances for use by the recycling industry.

These materials will be processed and the recycled products will be sold locally or re-exported. "We have treatment facilities for recyclables," he said.

Commenting on Ignacio's admission, Hernandez said: "That basically kills the assurance that no hazardous waste will be traded. Jpepa will exacerbate this kind of waste trading." With a report from Jerome An-



# After New York, GMA off to China, India

By Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo, home from a three-day visit to New York, will cool her heels for only a couple of days then take off for China and India tomorrow.

Ms Arroyo arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport late Saturday night but gave no arrival statement.

In New York, she delivered the Philippines' country report to the United Nations General Assembly, met with international business leaders and expressed support for Burmese prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

She is expected in China tomorrow to attend the Special Olympics in Shanghai and meet with Chinese officials including

President Hu Jintao. From China, she will proceed on Wednesday to India for a threeday state visit aimed at boosting trade and political ties. She is due to meet with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh besides addressing business leaders in the Indian capi-

tal and in the financial hub of Mumbai, an Agence France Presse report quoted an Indian official as

Arroyo's visit to India will be the first by a Philippine president in over 10 years. The last was by then President Fidel Ramos in March 1997. "India's ties with the Philip

pines are not as extensive as with Malaysia or Thailand," said Mohini Kaul, an international relations professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Though New Delhi launched its

"Look East" policy in the early 1990s aimed at forging new ties with the fast-growing economies of Southeast Asia, the "Philippines somehow did not figure in India's calculations."

"India saw the Philippines as a surrogate of the United States, which was reinforced by Manila's (frosty) reaction to India's nuclear tests in 1998," Kaul said.

Ms Arroyo is expected to return on Oct. 7.

With an AFP report

## Antigraft agency tells why it axed NBN prober

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-Graft Commission (PAGC) has defended its dismissal of an official who was investigating the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp., saying she violated the commission's rules when she disclosed the agency's investigation officials behind the NBN contract.

In a statement, the PAGC said that dismissed graft investigation officer Vida Bocar was guilty of "unauthorized disclosure" of confidential information through her act of sending an e-mail to newspaper columnist Jarius Bondoc on the ZTE case, which the latter published in his June 18 column.

Bocar had supposedly sought Bondoc's assistance in gathering documentary evidence regarding the ZTE contract.

PAGC said Bocar "acted with haste," which caused the preemptive disclosure to the pubic of a confidential motu proprio investigation being conducted by the agency.

The PGAC hired Bocar as a grant investigation officer under a contract of services for the period of June 1 to Aug. 31, 2007. Her contract was pre-terminated on June 22 for violation of Section 6 of Executive Order No. 531.

EO 531 prohibits the commission and its personnel from "disclosing or making public any record or information in connection with any investigation."

The same clause provides that it is only the PAGC chairperson who may disclose any information to the public.

As a PAGC investigator, one of the cases assigned to Bocar was the ZTE contract.

PAGC said Bocar exhibited "disregard for authority and established rules and operating procedures" by sending an electronic message unauthorized by the commission or its chair.

The agency said Bocar should have exercised caution knowing the person she sent the information to was a journalist who makes his living by making information known to the public.

#### PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# Kin of missing activists happy about amparo

ILOILO CITY—THE FAMILIES OF TWO missing activists here welcomed the Supreme Court's issuance of rules for the writ of amparo, a legal remedy that would compel law enforcers to search for missing persons.

Luis Posa, elder brother of missing activist Ma. Luisa Posa-Dominado, said last week the new rules would be "a big

their loved ones."

Posa said his family would consult with their lawyers on the filing of a petition for a writ of amparo when the rules take effect on Oct. 24.

The writ of amparo is broader than the better known writ of habeas corpus, Arado were abducted by armed men on denied this. which compels law enforcers to pro-

person in their custody, the writ of amparo compels them to search for that person, and holds them accountable if they don't.

Dominado and fellow activist Nilo April 12 in Barangay Cabanbanan, quirer Visayas

help to families desperately looking for duce an arrested person. Should law Oton, Iloilo. A companion, human enforcers deny they have the missing rights worker Jose Ely Garachico, was shot and seriously wounded but was left behind.

The families have accused military agents of being responsible for the abduction but the military has repeatedly Nestor P. Burgos Jr., In-



Banker who's into basketball, books and saving money looking to meet people with similar interests.

995 1888

Marlene Perez

Manager - West Triangle Branch

More about who I'm looking for:

Business-minded people who work hard and enjoy life. People who are responsible about their finances.

Those who'd appreciate an account with no opening or maintaining balance requirements, and don't want to be charged a fee when they transact in other banks' ATMs.

If you think you're one of them, call me. Or better yet, visit my branch at G/F Maxmor Bullding, Quezon Avenue cor. Examiner Street, West Triangle, Quezon City. I can even share some money-saving tips.

You can also visit any of our Citibank Savings branches.

You'll find it doesn't take much to experience world-class banking.

Citibank Savings. Now in your neighborhood.

Visit any of our Citibank Savings Branches: Alabang • Angeles • Ayala Avenue • Bacolod • Batangas • Binondo • Bulacen • Zamora • Cagayan de Oro • Calebcan Cebu • Mandaue • Cebu • Osmeña Avenue • Congressional Avenue • Dayao • Del Monte Avenue • Divisoria • Ermita • Frontera Verde • Greenhills • Ileilo Jose Abad Santos Avenue • Katipunan Avenue • Las Piñas • Legaspi Village • Ortigas • Pasay Road • Pasig • Market Avenue • Pasig • Rosario • Pasong Tamo San Fernando • San Pablo • Shaw Boulevard • Sta. Lucia East • Sucat • Tomas Morato Avenue • West Triangle

Citibank is a registered service mark of Citigroup Inc. Let's Get it Done is a service mark of Citigroup Inc.

citibank savings let's get it done



Be The Woman He Married Again!

Women who have gained pregnancy weight can now get back the body they had quickly (or even make it sexier than before!). With Marie France's effective Post-Natal Treatment Programmes, get a flatter tummy, shapelier hips, smoother thighs and slimmer legs. Be the woman he married - again! Let Marie France give you that slimmer, healthier body today.

Enroll from October 1-6, 2007, choose 1 among these FREE TREATMENT PACKAGES! Call now for a no-cost consultation.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4758, Series of 2007

You'll love it -- so will he!

Call 894-BODY (2639)



PAMPANGA . TEL: 961-2981.

Set sail with Asia's favourite cruise line.

Now cruising

Australia.

Hop-on, mate!



Legis Forum, Inc. an accredited Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) provider, shall conduct a full 36-unit MCLE course in MAKATI CITY on OCTOBR 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2007 (in lieu of its previous schedule September 8, 15, 22 & 29).

Credits earned can be credited to either the second or third compliance

dline for the second compliance period was last April 14, 2007. Avoid being listed as a delinquent member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and consequently, not permitted to practice law!

#### REGISTER NOW!

For Inquiries, please call: (632) 844-3871; 844-3819; 844-3906; 886-7868 Call or send SMS at: 0917-857-4988; 0917-8574978; 0922-8445713 Or you may log on to: www.legisforum.com & register online

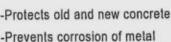
Our Venue, is conveniently located at the TIARA ORIENTAL HOTEL, Malugay corner Talisay Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City es shall be provided with: meals (a.m./p.m. snacks & lunch), free-fic

Legis Forum, Inc. 8th Floor Chatham House, 116 Valero cor. Herrora Sts., Salcodo Villago, Makati City

# Sick oi Consult the expert...



Dr. SEAL is an acrylic, permanent waterproofing membrane that:













METRO MANILA AGENTS: Cruise Shop Plus 439 0360 706 7245 **GSA Cruises** Horizon Travel 306 1500 Infinite Travel 521 5125 521 7690 Oltremare Tours Pan Pacific Travel 243 6666 Rajah Travel 523 8801 Travel Unlimited 844 2561

243 3888

Alternatively, you can log on to www.starcruises.com

starts at

4-Night cruise Dec 07, 2007

Ties That Travel (Pampanga) (045) 625 5548 (032) 234 2151 Cebu Fortune Travel (Cebu) Destinations Specialist (Cebu) (032) 232 2454 Grandeastasia Travel (Davao) (082) 224 2801 Konsturs & Travel Corp (Cagayan De Oro) (088) 856 5678

Sain Courses & Selli and the Course And Reversion with only seriounineparation of the convoical street of the वेहस्य नामित्रविताना कार्या ए एवं वितान कार्या है। वितान कार्या के वितान कार्या के वितान कार्या के वितान कार्य Exciting cruises up to 26-nights are also available, so hurry and call now! PROVINCIAL AGENTS:

Avention replies no replies the representative of the representati

4-Night Cruise Brisbane & Whitsundays & Townsville @ Cairns Dec. 11, 2007

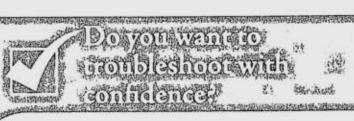
5-Night Cruise \$446 Fremantle @ Esperance @ Adelaide Nov. 30, 2007

7-Night Cruise \$565 Singapore S Komodo S

> Bali @ Darwin Nov. 18, 2007



The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific



#### PROBLEM-SOLVING AND DECISION-MAKING

October 23-25, 2007

Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Leadership is about taking control of situations that arise. Learn about the nature of problem-solving and patterns of thinking. Assess your options, make rational choices, and address potential threats. With Problem Solving and Decision Making, you will:

- Face problems and make decisions with renewed confidence
- Reinforce your authority and credibility with proven problem solving and decision making techniques
- Analyze situations more comprehensively to arrive at
- the best solution Anticipate potential problems, assess risks and weigh alternatives to come up with the best decisions and
- Tackle problems and make decisions more systematically and logically
- Harness support mechanisms that will give rise to better
- solutions and decisions Communicate decisions to team members to reinforce
- your power, authority and credibility
- Consistently implement and follow-through on decisions Overcome obstacles and resistance to "unpopular"

Leaders don't wait for things to happen. They make things

happen. This program was designed for supervisors, managers, and

all other members of the management team who wish to improve their problem-solving and decision-making skills.



Uni-Orient Travel

#### CORPORATE IMAGE

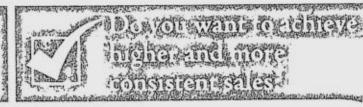
October 23 - 25, 2007 Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

All your advertisements and promotional efforts may well go to waste if you don't take care of your corporate image. The way you and your people handle themselves influence your customers subtly and may reinforce negative perceptions. Project an image that builds loyalty and spreads positive word-of-mouth. Take care of the little things that might make your company look bad. With Corporate Image you will:

- Project an image consistent with your company's values, brand and marketing
- strategies Align personal and organizational image
- Shape the perceptions of your company to keep present clients and attract new ones
- Show presence and confidence that
- communicate competence and credibility Conduct yourselves appropriately in formal and

informal social functions Put your best foot forward, always.

This program is designed for sales and service personnel, receptionists, and frontliners who want to project an image consistent with their company's values, brand and marketing strategies. This will also benefit marketing people who wish to create a brand image and HR people who will implement these changes.



Let the Star-guide you to a new experience

#### CREATIVE SELLING

November 6 - 8, 2007 Mandarin Oriental Hotal

Selling is more than just calling your usual contacts and hoping they buy more. Learn the difference between selling and order-taking, making strategic sales calls, and planning the right approach. Make the right impression and give "sure-sale" presentations. Also be aware how to handle questions and objections. With Creative Selling, you will:

- Know when and why people buy
- Translate product features and specifications into actual customer benefits
- Learn to identify and sell only to qualified prospects
- Plan moves in advance to increase the chances of closing the sale
- Make a favorable and lasting first impression on your customer
- Be able to get and keep the customer's interest
- Consistently make persuasive presentations Handle objections and comments professionally

Detect buying signals and get the order

It's always more than just selling.

EXPONENTIAL PROPERTY OF THE PR

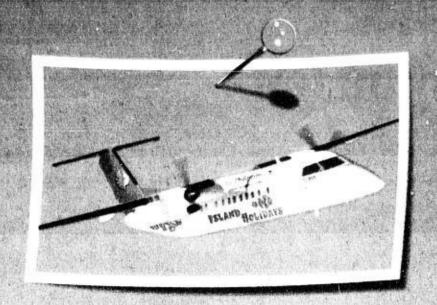
This program is for Account Executives, Sales Supervisors, and Sales Managers who want to achieve higher and more consistent sales.

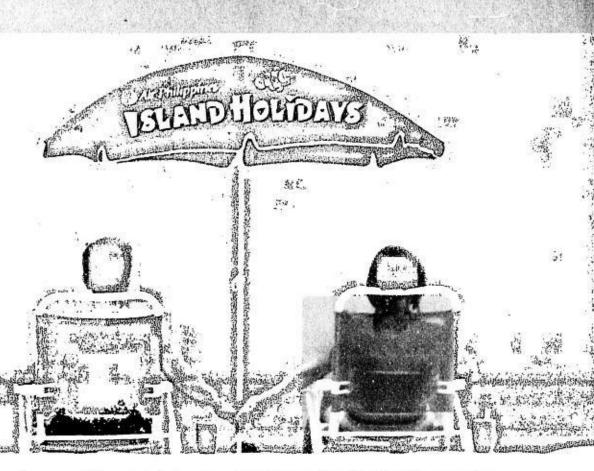


TO MANAGEMENT FASTER RESULTS

CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF For inquiries and reservations call Aris, Caroline, Diane, LJ, or Tessa at 892-7559, 894-0445, or 892-7041 or visit www.guthrie-jensen.com

7/F Glass Tower Bldg., Carlos Palanca Jr. St. Legaspi Vill., Makati City







Discover the new, exciting way to start your vacation. Discover Island Holidays. The convenien way to get away from it all. Enjoy it all in our brand-new Bombardier Q300.

The Bombardier Q300 is the world's quietest turboprop. Flying you to the Philippines' mos vacation destinations in total comfort and safety. With large overhead storage bins to acc your vacation gear. A generous 32-inch seat pitch for business class-like comfort. And a frie answer your every need.



HOSE

CENTERS

MOBILE NUMBER:

ALABANG ADRIATICO-MALATE May 5360619/5259891 0921 4669423

BINONDO CALOOCAN

Gemma Carol Olive Juna 8090395/7750587 2421312/2420728 3657653 231 3254 0918 3912510 0917 8224399 0915 8804668 0915 87972

PASAY ROAD Maan

(75466377)

H.V.DELA COSTA LEGASPI VILL. MEGAMALL

# Neri: I've nothing more to say on GMA

chief Cerge Remonde said in a phone interview.

Neri testified in the Senate

Sr. had offered him P200 million to endorse the ZTE proposal to undertake the NBN project.

Neri said he told Ms Arroyo

Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos fer and she told him not to accept it.

He did not say why the President continued to favor ZTE's proposal in spite of the bribe offered to him.

Pressed by senators, Neri refused to say what else did he and Ms Arroyo talked about in connection with the project.

executive privilege to evade questions on the President's involvement may set the stage for a collision course with the Senate.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, who heads the joint inquiry into the NBN deal, said the blue ribbon, trade and defense committees would discuss on Monday how to challenge Neri's continued invoking of executive privilege.

Under Executive Order No.

with Recording Function

Model: KX-TS730

**Panasonic** 

Just like being in there

Conference Speakerphone

"confidential or classified information between the President and her officials."

If there was nothing controversial in his conversations with Ms Arroyo about the ZTE proposal, Neri would not have invoked executive privilege to evade questions during his testi-Neri's insistence on invoking mony in the Senate on Wednes-

day, according to the senators. Ms Arroyo witnessed the signing of the contract for the NBN project between Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong in Boao, China, on April 21.

Documents that came to light showed that Ms Arroyo's involvement in the ZTE deal was more than superficial.

Official records submitted to

Full Duplex

8 Microphones

Echo-Canceller

Noise Reduction

PBX•facsimiles

Two-way Recording

464, executive privilege covers the blue ribbon committee showed that Ms Arroyo authorized two Cabinet secretaries to negotiate for the award of the NBN project to ZTE months before Neda began its evaluation of the project, according to gmanews.tv, the website of GMA News and Public Affairs.

GMA News said that four days before the formal talks with ZTE started, Ms Arroyo brought the ZTE chair to Cotabato City as her special guest at the joint Cabinet-Regional Development Council meeting on July 8, 2006.

The President told residents of the city that ZTE would invest \$1 billion in telecommunications and other projects in the country.

Four days later, Ms Arroyo signed a "special authority" document giving Trade Secretary Peter Favila "full powers" to "negotiate, conclude and sign, for and on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines" the award of investments projects, including the NBN, to ZTE International Investment Corp., ZTE Corp.'s sister firm.

Remonde said Neri and the Palace could "possibly" meet again before the next Senate hearing on the NBN deal with ZTE to discuss Neri's authorization to invoke executive privilege in refusing to disclose certain information.

Remonde said Neri was upset Neri's lawyer.

about the INQUIRER story on the executive session in the Senate in which the former Neda chief was reported to be close to revealing more about the controversial ZTE contract.

Four INQUIRER sources said Neri was "on the verge" of disclosing the rest of his account on the alleged lobbying and bribery involving the NBN deal when Sen. Joker Arroyo and Budget Secretary Rolando An-

daya Jr. reportedly intervened. "He feels the [INQUIRER] story was trying to drive a wedge between him and the President," Remonde said.

On radio dzBB yesterday, Senator Arroyo described as "completely false" the INQUIRER headline that said he intervened to prevent Neri from divulging the President's role in the NBN deal during the Sept. 26 Senate executive session.

The strict confidentiality of the closed-door executive session has been compromised by some senators who spoke to the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity, according to Arroyo.

For his part, Andaya decried what he said was the impression that he had barged into the executive session.

Andaya said he was at the session from the beginning as

#### He serves arrest ...

From page A1

INQUIRER in an interview, recalling how the disgraced leader behaved through his six-year landmark plunder trial and outside of it.

There were many occasions—a wedding or a birthday party of a family member, awarding rites, speaking engagements, medical checkups and quick weekend visits with his mother, whose condition is

now deteriorating. Urieta the other day had to forego his day off again to oversee security during Estrada's 10-hour court pass to visit 102year-old Mary Ejercito at the San Juan Medical Center.

The 61-year-old sheriff, who usually wears a barong Tagalog, was recently named by the Professional Regulation Commission the "Outstanding Criminol-

ogist" this year. The Occidental Mindoro native also received commendations from the Supreme Court and Sandiganbayan justices for the well-planned security arrangements during the Estrada verdict promulgation on Sept.

Being the overseer of Estrada's security, Urieta has noticed how the former President can engage one in a long dialogue about something he had just read or how he would quote parables from the Bible when lecturing his aides in his Tanay, Rizal, rest house where he has been detained since 2004.

#### Photographic memory

Urieta said Estrada had a photographic memory that served him well as a box-office action star and politician.

"He easily remembers things. But what he is particular about is his hair. He makes sure that the media crowding him won't ruin his hairdo," Urieta said with a chuckle.

Where the prying eyes of the media and their cameras cannot go, Urieta has easy access-such as the toilet on the sixth floor of the Sandiganbayan, where the heavily guarded Estrada had to answer the call of nature moments after the guilty verdict was read.

There, the ousted President managed to bring his quarreling sons-San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada-together in a hug, said Urieta.

"The former President said, 'O, bahala na kayo, ha' and the two hugged each other. JV was in tears," Urieta recalled.

#### Healthy respect for Erap

From his perspective as an onlooker, Urieta said that despite the brickbats, the Arroyo administration has a healthy respect for the disgraced leader as shown when Estrada turned 67

President Macanagal-Arroyo

sent Estrada a gold-plated desk set as a birthday gift, Urieta said. "Estrada showed it to us in Tanay. He disclosed that it came from the President," he said.

Urieta first met Estrada on April 16, 2001, when the ex-President voluntarily surrendered to post bail for six of the seven criminal charges filed against him in the antigraft court.

His next encounter with Estrada came nine days later during his arrest in his Polk Street residence. There, "the Estrada family and a few supporters received Urieta in the dining room with a soda he had requested in jest.

#### To ease tension

"I asked for a bottle of soft drinks if that was the only way to break the tension, to show them that we came there not to forcibly and rashly arrest the former President, and that the procedure could be done in a peaceful way," he said.

Urieta was expecting a violent encounter that day. The arrest warrant he served on Estrada was the first in history to be issued against a former Philippine president. Happily, Estrada surrendered without a fight.

The tension he experienced then was similar to that he felt when he went to Malacañang Park to arrest Gen. Fabian Ver, who was among the suspects in the murders of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino and his alleged gunman, Rolando Galman.

"Nobody wanted to come with us because they were scared. We were afraid for our lives, too," he admitted.

Ver, then the Armed Forces chief of staff, was not around. So Urieta waited until he arrived before dawn.

"We requested him to come with us, and he did," Urieta recounted. The late general did not want it to be remembered as an arrest; he merely surrendered, the sheriff said.

#### Volkswagen ride

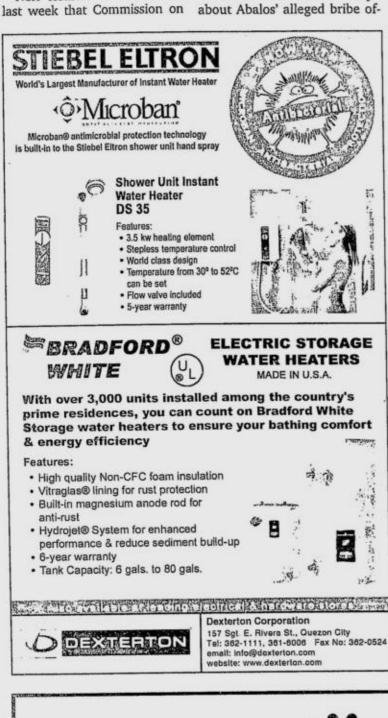
Urieta also recalled having Francisco Tatad ride with him in an old Volkswagen with a malair-conditioner functioning when he took him into custody in 1985 in connection with corruption charges.

"These VIPs may appear invincible at first. They may look hard-nosed, but once you have served them their arrest warrant, they yield like any ordinary people who have to go through the process of our jus-

tice system," Urieta said. Imelda Marcos may have shown force when she submitted herself to the Sandiganbayan years ago, appearing with an entourage of aides, bodyguards, nurses and lawyers.

"But she was addressing us thumbmark to the documents,"

with 'po' or 'opo' while filling out the arrest forms and affixing her recalled the amused sheriff





Birit na and experience the RealSound® difference.

Memory pack · with 128mb of extra memory, record up to 100

mins. or save as many as 50 pictures

Promo period: October 1-31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3359. Series of 2007.

SM Appliance outlets: The Block • SM Valenzuela • SM Cubac • SM Megamall • Rockwell • SM Makati • SM Fairview • SM Manila • SM Mall Of Asia • SM Sucat • SM Bicutan • SM Sta. Rosa • SM Las Piñas • Virramali • SM Marilao • SM Pampanga • SM Bagulo • SM Bacoor • SM Dasmariñas • SM Batangas • SM Lipa • SM Cebu • SM Itolio • SM Lucena • SM Davao • SM Cagayan De Oro • SM Bacolod • Automatic Centre outlets; Market! Market! • Tutuban • Shaw Boulevard • Sogo Alimali • Pioneer • Sogo Metro East • Gateway • Sogo Gioriette • Robinsons outlets: Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Ermita • Robinsons Appliance outlets: Novaliches • Metro East • DIY outlets: Araneta Square Monumento • Ortigas · Ever Gotesco Commonwealth · Greenhills · Eastwood · Gateway · Sta. Lucia East (Cainta) · Nepo Mall (Pampanga) · Nepo Mall (Dagupan) · CSI (Dagupan) · Alaminos · Nepo Mall (Baguio) · Magic Mail (Urdaneta) · Nepo Mail (Angeles) · Magic Mail (Urdaneta) · Balingit Mail (Urdaneta) · Olongapo City (Zambales) · Bay Citymall Batangas · Lotus Mail Imus Cavite • Uniwide Sales Paranaque City • Abanao (Baguio) • Coyeesan (Baguio) • DIY San Pedro • DIY Sta. Rosa • DIY Sta. Cruz, Laguna • DIY Naga • Electronics Boutlque outlets.

Metro East • Marketl Marketl • Festival • Ambassador outlets: Perksquare • Shangri-La Mall (2nd Fir.) • Other outlets: Royal Duty Free Suble • First Asian Appliance • Lighting Depot Shaw Blvd • Gaisano Cagayan De Oro • Gadgets in style (Shangri-la Mail, 5th floor) • Sohan Int'i (Harrison Plaza) • Quality Cellular Phone Center (144-C West Avenue) • CMK Cellphone Accessories (311 B-Roosevelt Avenue)

Exclusively Distributed by: RealSound&Corporation • www.realsoundvideoke.com Tel. No.:[632] 366-9410 • [02] 447-3114 • [632] 447-3647• SMS: 0927-4842788

by (f) medla Mode in KOREA www.tjmedie.co.kr

#### INTERNAL ANTI-AGEING



'Don't wait till you're old to look young..."



160% NATURAL AND ORGANIC HEALTH SUPPLEMENT NATURE'S SUPER ANTI-OXIDANTS & **NUTRITIONAL POWERHOUSES** 

mercury drug....

TXT 4 INFO: 0018 741 0348 EMAIL! In



For as low as P7,142/mo. monthly amortization\*



Studio • 1 Bedroom • 2 Bedrooms • 3 Bedrooms • Bi-level units



Conveniently located near C-5 and the Ortigas Business Center. SM Supercenter Pasig • Tiendesitas • Medical City • SM Megamall • Metrowalk

Experience the benefits of stylish condo living now being enjoyed by current homeowners.

Swimming Pool • Gym • Multi-purpose Hall • Playground

A project of the CLAIRMONT GROUP Developer: Dynamic Realty & Resources Corp.

HLURB No. 13509

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3321, series of 2007

100 C. Raymundo Ave., Maybunga, Pasig City Call: 634-6754 • email: sales@drrchomes.com • visit: www.hamptongardens-ph.com

Estimated monthly amortization. Prices subject to change without prior notice. Pag-ibig, bank and in-house financing options are available



# NY judge won't clear RP nurses

From page Al

case on Friday.

'A lawyer for the nurses, James Druker, said his clients had a right to quit and were innocent of any crime.

"This is the classic uphill battle, but we're going to fight on," Druker told the Newsday newspaper after the ruling.

US authorities said the nurses quit on the advice of their lawyer, Felix Vinluan, who is also charged.

Vinluan and the nurses could face up to six years in prison if convicted on the charges.

#### Topnotcher

Jacinto, the topnotcher in the 2004 medical board exams in the Philippines.

premed course of nursing magna cum laude, decided to work as a nurse in the United States for the good pay.

A nurse in the Philippines makes \$150 to \$250 a month; doctors make \$300 to \$800. But the average registered nurse in the United States earns \$4,000 a month.

Last year, Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan, a former health secretary, said that over the past five years, 9,000 Filipino doctors (out of about 56,000) had retrained as nurses and that 5,000 had gone abroad.

Filipino nurses were recruited to work in the United States for three years by Sentosa Recruitment Agency (SRA).

#### Sentosa custody

When they arrived in New York in November 2005, the nurses were turned over to Sentosa Ben Philipson, which in turn placed them in the custody of Sentosa Care LLC, a limited liability company that runs nursing homes in New York.

A third entity called Prompt Nursing Employment Agency/Sentosa service also came into the picture apparently as the actual employer of the nurses, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., One of the nurses is Elmer who took the cudgels for the nurses in the Philippines, said last year.

SRA and the network of nurs-Jacinto, who finished his ing homes are owned by one person identified by Vinluan as Ben Philipson, who is chief operating officer and managing

#### 80 km from Manhattan

Jacinto and seven others were sent to Avalon Gardens, a nursing home in Smithtown, about 80 kilometers from Man-

Jacinto and his colleagues complained that they did not get the promised pay of between \$21 and \$35 an hour.

They also failed to get benefits, which were specified in quirer archives

Jacinto and some 20 other their employment contracts, free malpractice insurance, pay differential for night shift duty and flexible work schedule from 8 to 12 hours.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

#### Overworked

They said they were overworked. Each of them was required to attend to 35 patients round the clock, instead of the ideal ratio of six patients per

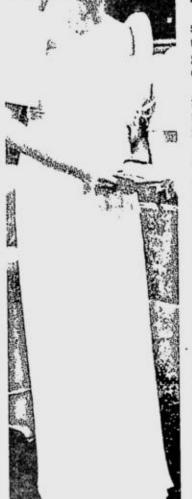
The employer, which had promised two months free housing, assigned eight nurses to a small, dingy home with a single bathroom that did not always work. Jacinto and another man slept on pull-out couches in the living

#### Walkout without notice

On April 7, 2006, Jacinto and 10 others quit. In all, 26 Filipino nurses left, including five trained doctors.

Their employer, who claims the nurses were treated fairly, said many walked out without notice, endangering patients requiring constant care.

In the Philippines, the issue linked a Malacañang official. The nurses charged that the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration recalled last year its suspension order against SRA at the instance of then Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor. AP and In-



JESUSA Victoria Garcia Hernandez, better known as Lani Mercado.

# Lani who? Appellate court spurns actress

In a recently promulgated decision, the appellate court reversed the ruling issued by the Bacoor Regional Trial Court granting Mercado's petition for a name change.

The Bacoor court handed down its ruling in December 2000 prior to Mercado's bid for public office in the 2001 elections.

The Office of the Solicitor General had opposed her petition on the grounds that the Bacoor court had failed to follow the process for conducting a hearing on the issue.

In its Sept. 20 decision, the appellate court upheld the solicitor general.

#### Notice of hearing

According to the appellate court, the Bacoor RTC conducted the initial hearing on Mercado's petition for a name change less than four months after the publication of the hearing notice-and this was prohibited under the Rules of Court.

The Rules of Court state that the RTC should publish the notice of hearing for three successive weeks and set the date for a hearing but not within 30 days prior to an election and not within four months after the last publication of the notice.

#### 'Solgen is correct'

In Mercado's case, the hearing was scheduled just a little over a month after the last day of the

publication of the notice on Nov.

The appellate court said the hearing should have been set not earlier than March 3, 2001. Hence, the Bacoor RTC did not acquire jurisdiction over Mercado's petition.

"The solicitor general correctly argued that to dispense with the requirement under ... the Rules of Court would render the publication useless and ineffective, considering that it is through publication that the public is apprised of the petition and thereby invited to submit ... such information relevant thereto as may be in their possession or within their knowledge," the appellate court said.

In October 2000, Mercadosought to change her name on her birth certificate to Lani Mercado-Revilla, in preparation for running for public office in the 2001 elections.

#### Better known as Lani

Mercado said she wanted to avoid confusion since she used the name more often than the name listed on her birth certificate, and was better known by it.

She also said she wanted to avoid the problem faced by her husband-who was born Jose Mari Bautista-when he ran for governor in 1995 and 1998.

The Bacoor court on Dec. 15, 2000, granted her petition.

# Midwives are RP's new health care heroines

"I still check on her," she said. For her efforts, De la Cruz, 40, was awarded by the multinational firm Johnson & John-

That was in 1999. Today, as a casual employee of a rural health unit, she receives a pitiful P4,000 a month to support her three children whose ages range from 3 to 10. (Her husband Celso tends to the youngest full-time.)

#### New heroes

b Midwives are the new health care heroes, declared Dr. Lulu Bravo, professor of pediatrics and vice chancellor and executive director of the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Health in

"Without the midwives, we're left with nothing. We're out of nurses. Doctors are becoming nurses. Midwives are the ones left behind," Bravo said.

Dr. Yolanda Oliveros, director of the Department of Health's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control, agreed, saying that while practicing their profession in far-flung provinces was hardly lucrative, "midwives stay there."

nail from as far south as Suri-

gao, where a banca carrying a midwife and a nurse carrying their immunization kits recent-

That scene was replicated in the north, in Abra, where another midwife and another nurse, Elena Buenafe and Rosario Magala, respectively, drowned while crossing a river, their medical kits in hand to the very end of their lives.

"Some people call us doktora," said Patricia Gomez, president of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines Inc. (Imap). "Our midwives cross deep rivers slippery [negotiate] mountain trails in rebel-infested areas."

assessments, the recommended ratio is one midwife for every 3,000 people. But Gomez a nurse are stationed in the said that in some areas, the ratio is one midwife for 30,000

#### Doing much more

Midwives mainly deliver babies. A number also stick intravenous drips in patients before they are rushed to provincial hospitals. (The DOH has conducted emergency IV training for midwives.)

And they do much more, Indeed, these unsung heroes Gomez said: "More than 40 DOH programs rest on the mid-

wives' shoulders."

These programs include immunizing mothers and their children for diarrhea, malaria, dengue, TB-DOTS (Tuberculosis-Directly Observed Treatment Short-course), tetanus, hepatitis B, diphtheria, polio and measles; counseling mothers, and educating couples on family planning, nutrition and pregnancy.

Edna Beguia, 54, has been a midwife for 30 years, and is thankful that she has not had a single maternal death in all that time.

Imap, Beguia does the rounds of 17 barangays in Real, Quezon, where she, along with Oliveros said that per recent five other midwives, provides services to a population of 36,000. (Only one doctor and

Beguia recounted how she tended to a childbirth with half her body submerged in floodwaters. The day was Nov. 29, 2004, when a flash flood engulfed Real, killing hundreds of men, women and children, and wiping out the main health cen-

A number of women had their babies on that day; three of them were attended by Beguia on her makeshift delivery

her obstetrics bag, and she was left with just a pair of surgeon's scissors and a cord clamp.

Water birth

The flood had washed away

#### Beguia also recounted how she was able to conduct a "water birth" in San Pedro, Laguna, on April 17, 2003-a first in the country, Gomez said.

The mother had been searching the Internet for referrals on water birthing in the Four mid-Philippines. wives-two from the United Kingdom, one from Oregon in A colleague of Gomez at the United States, and another from Canada-referred her to

> As it turned out, Beguia had hands-on experience with water birthing in London. In 2002, she was invited by the Association of Radical Midwives in the United Kingdom for an eightmonth immersion in London to observe natural and water

#### P10,000 gross

A water birth-a procedure that immerses the mother in lukewarm water during delivery-has its advantages, according to Beguia. Pain and tearing are significantly reduced, as the lukewarm water enables the muscles to be more elastic. Bleeding is also controlled.

In 1977, Beguia's starting monthly salary as a midwife was P366. After 30 years in serover P10,000 before taxes.

Her husband, Rogelio, 58, is a retired member of the Philippine Coast Guard. They have five children, two of whom are midwives themselves.

Beguia's mother, Justa, was one of the recipients of the DOH training for hilot at the Dr. Jose Fabella Hospital in Manila in 1940. Now 86, Justa assists in childbirths to this day.

from the PRC, the Perinatal Asso-tionwide. ciation of the Philippines and Johnson & Johnson.

#### 2-year course

Midwifery was introduced in the Philippines in 1922 as a one-year course. It now takes two years, with graduates required to hurdle a board exami-

According to Oliveros, efforts are being exerted to upgrade midwifery to a four-year course, and to make amendments to the midwifery law.

"With this move of making midwifery a four-year course, thus elevating it to a higher professional level, and with the problem of the migration of doctors and nurses, there really should be legislation on the offi-

cial functions of midwives," Oliveros said.

PRC records show 150,722 vice, she now earns just a little registered midwives as of June 2007. There is no information on the number of midwives who have gone abroad.

Licensed Filipino midwives can practice their profession in the Middle East, but not in the United Kingdom, United States and certain other Asian countries, where midwives are required to complete a six-year

Per Gomez's estimate, there Beguia has received awards are 216 midwifery schools na-

#### Retooling

The relationship between midwives and village hilot is also evolving to benefit areas where doctors and nurses are

"We don't encourage infant delivery by the hilot. It is the midwives who should deliver babies," Oliveros said.

She said the DOH was "retooling" the hilot to allow them to assist midwives, or tend to mothers' postpartum (after birth) needs.

"Mothers want hilot for personal services, like massage, bathing, taking care of infants. We can retool them to continue such functions, but not deliver babies," she said.

# Cell phones double as electronic wallets

nessage via his phone to a bank ine dedicated to the service.

In a matter of seconds, the ransaction is approved and the :eller gives him P2,500, minus a 1-percent fee. He doesn't need a pank account to retrieve the

More than 5.5 million Filpinos now use their cell phones as virtual wallets, making the Philippines a leader among dereloping nations in providing financial transactions over mooile networks.

Mobile banking services, which are also catching on in Kenya and South Africa, enable people who don't have bank accounts to transfer money easily, quickly and safely. It's spreadng in the developing world because mobile phones are much nore common than bank accounts.

The system is particularly iseful for the 8 million Filpinos-10 percent of the popuation-who work overseas and send money home, like Dennis' nother, Anna Tiangco. Previously, she sent money via a bank wire transfer, which costs HK\$20 (\$2.50) and takes two

method costs only HK\$1 (13 US cents) and is nearly instantaneous.

#### Japanese way

"The good thing here is, wherever my children are, they can text me and I can send money immediately," she said by telephone from Hong

Consumers also can store limited amounts of money on their cell phones to buy things at stores that participate in the network-although this practice isn't yet widespread in the Philip-

Many more Filipinos use their phones to send airtime values called "loads" to prepaid subscribers. A parent, for example, can send a P60 load to replenish a child's cell phone, charged to the parent's account.

While Japanese and South Korean consumers have been using cell phones as virtual wallets for several years, those systems use a computer chip implanted in handset that allows people to buy things by

sensor.

#### Avid texters

The Philippine system relies on simple text messages, which cost just P1 to send.

The 41 million cell phone users in the Philippines are avid texters. The electronic connections have fostered a culture of quick greetings and forwarded jokes. Text messages also played a key role in mobilizing crowds that fueled the 2001 "people power" revolt that ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The Philippines' two biggest mobile service providers, Globe Telecom and Smart Communications, have harnessed this penchant for text messaging to enable consumers to enter the world of e-commerce.

Tapping into the cash flow from overseas Filipinos—who sent home \$12.7 billion last year-Globe and Smart forged partnerships with foreign mobile providers and banks, as well as with local banks and merchants, to create a network that allows users to send

days to clear. The cell phone waving the phone in front of a and receive cash internationally.

#### How it works

When Anna Tiangco wants to send cash home, for example, she goes to a branch of her local provider, Hong Kong CSL Ltd., where a clerk credits her cell phone with the amount she has

brought with her. She then transfers the money to family members via text messages-in essence, instructing her providers to deduct money from her balance to the recipients she indicates.

If a cell phone loaded with cash values is lost or stolen, the money can't be tapped as long as the personal identification number isn't revealed. Control over the funds can be restored with a replacement SIM card from either mobile provider.

#### G-cash users

The system was "built for remote payments and for the unbanked markets," said Rizza Maniego Eala, president of G-Xchange, Globe's subsidiary in charge of its G-Cash money transfer service.

Eala said her company's 500,000 G-Cash users transfer about \$100 million monthly, but she declined to say how many transactions involve remittances from overseas.

Smart offers a slightly different money transfer system, used by about 5 million Filipinos, that links cash or a debit card to a cell phone.

Users load up their phones with money via text messages. The card-which costs P200 but does not require a bank account-can then be used to purchase goods in establishments that accept MasterCard, or to withdraw cash from an ATM

#### Helping OFWs

machine.

According to Smart Communications spokesperson Ramon Isberto, each time the recipient spends the money, the sender receives a transaction message. That allows the sender to see how the funds are used.

"The added value there now is that Filipinos overseas have greater control over their funds. Believe me, that is important to

them," Isberto said. Smart and UAE's leading now."

telecommunications operator, Etisalar, have agreed to provide money transfer service to hundreds of thousands of Filipinos in the Middle East.

Smart also will soon launch a remittance system in Bahrain in partnership with MTC-Vodafone and Ahli United Bank there, and Banco de Oro in the Philippines, Isberto said.

#### Paying bills

"The bank products remain clearly bank products. We positioned ourselves as an enabler for banks and other financial institutions to provide products and services to their customers in ways they would otherwise not have been able to," he said.

Aside from transferring cash and making purchases, both Globe and Smart also allow their users to pay bills with their phones.

According to Anna Tiangco, she pays her family's electric bills in San Miguel from Hong Kong via text messages, just like she sends money.

"Even if we are far apart, it's like we are still together," she said. "This is like my wallet



# Nothing can stop you from talking.

Bayan Wireless Landline lets you call and talk all you want, even while on the go! For only 19699\* a month, enjoy all these:

Unlimited calls and talktime to and from any local landline • Unlimited calls and texts from Bayan to Bayan nationwide

You can also avail of the following:

- Low NDD and IDD call rates
- Text messaging to other networ's
- Internet up to 128 kbps

\*Applies to Metro Menile only, One-time charge applies to phone units.







Call (02) 497-3000, log on to www.bayan.com.ph or visit any Bayan Center for more information.

GUAM \$128 BOHOL PKG P 2770 BORACAY PKG P 3115 CEBU PKG P 3975 PALAWAN PKG P 2935 3NIIOS BEIJING \$ 36 (ALL PACKAGER EXCLUDING TAXES DAVAO PKG P 3115 Other INTERNATIONAL and DOMESTIC TICKETS PACKAGES are preliable PALAWAN PKG P 2935 CAGAYAN PKG P 4450 ASSISTANCE 8 other documentation needs 1089 Poblo Ocempo Street, Melete, Manile Tel.: 524-1405/524-0987/524-1477/0917-8003641 JD/0918-6746072 PAU

E-mail: Jocelyn4691@yahoo.com/lux?estrada@tri-tsys.com/travelplazamanito@yahoo.com.ph

BUDGET PACKAGES **4Days SHENZHEN** 4D SHENZHEN+DISNEYLAND 4Days HONGKONG (Oct. 6 dep) 4D HKG FREE & EASY (Oct. 6 dop) 8D SHEN+SHANGHAI+BEIJING+MACAU 14DAYS AFFORDABLE EUROPE 14DAYS AFFORDABLE EUROPE | 3D HONGKONG FREE & EASY | 3D BANGKOK | 128 |
3D HONGKONG WE DENEY	211
4D KUMA-GENTING HIGHLANDS	203
4D KUMA-GENTING HIGHLANDS	203
4D KUMA-SHIGAPORE IDVERLANC	218
4D KUMALA SHIGAPORE IDVERLANC	218
4D KUMALA SHIGAP 4D MACAU+HONGKONG+SHENZHEN 2N SHENZHEN+IN HONGKONG 4Days SAIGON 2003 4D BELJING (vtn CX) 2N HONGKONG+1N SHENZHEN 50 SUPER STAR VIRGO CRUISE KUALA LUMPUR GUAM HONGKONG SHANGHAI HONOLULU SEOUL AXVSFO BANGKOK ANARITA NEW JERSEY	

PRINCE THE PASSIGNANT FARES AT VERY LOW PURCLE AND ALTERNATE PASSING FOR STREET PASSING F ATR TRAVEL CLIPPE & TOURS, INC.
2nd Floor Unit C Davis Bidg., A. Mabrin cot. Sta. Monca Sts., Ermita, Min.
Tel. Nos.: 450-8283 / 450-8281 / 303-1410 / 400-3013
Telefax: 522-0354 Cell Nos.: 0917-3295594/0922-8788871
E-mait airtravelguidelnio@yahoo.com Wabsile www.pitravelph.com

Think Winlink. HONGKONG FLOD & EARY DESNEYLAND FAMILY PACKAGE PAMILY PACKAGE s226 48 DISNEY OVERNIGHT THE s246 DISNEY OVERNIGHT FEET IN MACAU IN HONGKONG THE BEIJING From & Ensy SHENZHEN DATE 8383 3D2N JAKARTA F&E TTE TUNNEL MERONG DELTA TOURS (FEE)
SD FUN SNOW FASHION (FEE)
KOREA 345 s262 40 5374 \$505 57F0 60 BANGKOK **\$288** KUALA LUMPUR END 5D SHANGHAI MED 105 AND 115 A 5D EXPENSE DE MALAYBAPON W 2 MALAGERA CITT WEST COAST TAREET IN GUANGZHOU PANTOGALAIN CERTE 140 MEDITERRANEAN CERTE 150 EUROPEAN ESSENTIALS CHATEEN 150 EASTERN EUROPE CHATEEN AD CONCERT CRUISE WITH CHARLES ON CRUISE CHECK CHARLES A COSE COU CASSAGE COME CONTRACTOR CONTRACTO MODERAL TOWNSON

NEWARK CEFF BOHOL EXCELLEN WINLINK TRAVEL CDC Biray , 1185 M. Ornas St. Irmite Mante. Philippinus 1000 Fa. » (832) 524-5899 / 528-52-01 74498 Testing » (981-8)348-8085 E-mail » wintinktimydostiny not wintinkt joky@pldtdel.nut (832) 525-6306 522-5446 522-7738 404-1231 404-1249 がない

(O) NEWY HOOD AVX

HONGKONG +1N MACAU 1N SHENZHEN W/ WINDOWS OF THE WORLD TOUR Stoy of Empire Kowloon Hotel=4-Star Hote Departure Oct. 31 3N HONGKONG + 1N MACAU Stay of Empire Kowkoon Hotel=4-Start Hotel Departure Oct. 31 Departure Oct. 31

N HONGKONG + 1N MACAU Departure Oct. 27

2N HONGKONG W. DISNEYLAND TOUR + 1N MACAU + 1N SHENZHEN Departure Oct. 27 N HONGKONG W. DISNEYLAND TOU +3N SHENZHEN W. WINDOWS OF TH WORLD & MACAU CITY TOUR

tay of Empire Fowtoon Hotel = 4-Star = 5 Departure Oct. 31 SHANGHAI + HANGZHOU BOOK & BUY Departure Oct. 31

BEIJING + SHANGHAI + MACAU Evening Flight) Departure Oct. 20

TIBET (LHASA) + XIAN + XINING Departure Oct. 27

GUILIN + YANGSHOU + NANNING + TE TIEN ULL BOARD • Departure Oct. 31

FULL BOARD • Departure Nov. 1 TAIWAN TAIPEI+HUALIAN+TAI TUNG +KAOSHIUNG+ALISAN+TAICHUNG) Departure Oct. 28

Korea + Taiwan Departure Oct. 29

MUALA LUMPUR - MALACCA - GENTING HIGHLAND SUMWAY LAGOON - BANGKOK - PATTAYA

(DENPASAR) + JAKARTA Departure Oct. 29 BALI (DENPASAR) + JOGYAKARTA + BOROBODUR + JAKARTA Deporture Oct. 29

**CANTON FAIR** PACKAGE Departure Oct. 14, 17 & 27

Email: jarcantravel@yahoo.com outboundtours@triple8travel.com

MAKATI: 892-8631 to 36

BINONDO: 247-1456 to 57 STA. CRUZ: 734-8957 / 711-6776 TUTUBAN: 252-7384 / 85

TUTUBAN: 252-7384 / 85
ERMITA: 522-1021 to 22
SAMPALOC: 740-3687 / 416-5370
CONGRESSIONAL: 453-8809 to 10 / 426-4516
KAMIAS (O.C.): 433-5514 / 927-2759 / 926-6920
COMMONWEALTH (O.C.) 426-6203 / 433-6613
SAN JUAN: 722-6514 / 744-4042
ORTIGAS: 633-6588 / 634-6388
MANDALUYONG 0922-6216713 / 914-5526
MARIKINA: 948-8688 / 940-4071
ALABANG 842-2434 / 842-2493
MUNTINLUPA: 773-7686 / 862-4246
LAS PINAS: 801-2265 / 0917-8879387
CEBU: 412-6645 / 255-8976 & 79
DAVAO: 225-3246 / 297-4900
LIPA CITY: 756-4619

IPA CITY: 756-4619 AMBOANGA 991-5098

HONGKONG VIA CEBU PACIFIC \$74

30/2N PURE HKG VIA CEBU PACIFIC \$124

30/2N PURE HKG VIA CEBU PACIFIC \$124

VIA PHIL. AIRLINES \$182 VIA CATHAY \$193

1 NITE STAR CRUISE+1 NITE HKG+1 NITE DISNEYLAND \$351 BANGKOK W LUNCH \$100

SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA + INDO ADD \$76 VENETIAN MACAU \$305 SHANGHAI-BEIJING VIA CX \$391 EUROPE PKG W/ FREE TRAVEL INSURANCE 1,690 BORACAY 10 2N VIA GEBU PAGIFIC P1,816
BOHOL 30 2N VIA GEBU PAGIFIC P1,816 HONGKONG 170 SEOUL WRY 318 QUAM NO 156
BANGKOK 170 SHANNOHAL 3 SO LAX 370 SHOO
SINGAPORE 900 BELJING 220 NEWARK 900
MACAU 170 KIAMEN 32 5150 MARITA 3385
KUALA LUMPUR 170 ZAUPEL 25350 EUROPEL 370

AMKOR TRAVEL & TOURS INC. 3765398; 3765399 6320203; 6313355 4113852; 4116244 6330003; 6318393

3D HongKong	-4D HongKong	3D HongKong
Free & Easy	Free & Easy	Disneydaytour
US\$ 165	US\$ 200	US\$ 185
4D HongKong	3D HongKong	4D HongKong
Disneydaytour	Overnight In Disney	Overnight in Disney
US\$ 220	US\$ 240	US\$ 280
3D BANGKOK	4D BANGKOK	3D SINGAPORE
Package	Package	Package
US\$ 170	US\$ 180	US\$ 220
4D SINGAPORE	4D SHANGHAI	4D BEIJING
Package	Package	Package
US\$ 244	US\$ 272	US\$ 330

SUNBRIGHT TOURS & TRAVEL Room 602, Manila Pavilion Hotel, U.N. Ayenue, Ermita, Manila 1000 4040356 10 58 / 5234276 / 5235830 / 5244246 ,5236201 / 4042076 / 4042032 Fax: 5251459 suntravel apacific.net.ph / image amadeusph.com Business Permit No. 2006-22253

TO SESSION SUCKES HONGKONG CENTRAL DESIGNATION OF THE PARTY OF THE PART CENTER DE BANGKOK SINGAPORE CHID CHID CITED OFFID CHILD STED OF \$ : HONGKONG-DISMITILAND PACKAGE \$179 \$279 \$159 PACKAGE \$159 PACKAGE \$159 PACKAGE \$159 \$128 \$128 \$128 \$128 \$262 \$169 BUIGE I FADES OTHER INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC TICKETS PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE WE ALSO OFFER PASSPORTING VISA ASSISTANCE & NEO LOCAL TOURS BORACAY-Php 5,336.00, PALAWAN-Php 5,580.00 BOHOL - Php 5,390 00, CEBU - Php 5,040.00, DAVAO - Php 5,935.00

SAMS TRAVEL & TOURS MAIN:P. TUAZON CUBAO BRANCH:WEST AVI. G.C.
TEL#: 913-9508, 438-8227
913-9560,438-8224,439-2847
CEL#: 0917-6199922
0920-5416440
veolin www.sci.elianov.jov.joon

ATREARES EXCITING PACKAGES WEST COAST 5005 SIN+BANGKOK+HONGKONG \$ 439 BANGKOK+SINGAPORE TELAVIV ISRAEL KUALA LUMPUR+BANGKOK HONGKONG 31 590 PR 5132 HANGKUN 51 550 PR 5132 KUALA LUMPER 5 70 SPIGAPORE 5100 SEOLI (PAL) 5:398 SHANGHAI PR 5:228 HEILING 2778 HONGKONG+SHENZHEN (PAL) \$ 199 2Nites HONGKONG w/ DISNEY \$ 228 KUALA LUMPUR+HONGKONG \$ 448 2Nites BANGKOK (PAL) \$ 168 2Nites SINGAPORE (5J) \$ 198 BEIJING NARITA (PAL) 3Nites SHANGHAI PKG (PAL) \$ 408 ALSTRALIA S768 | 3Nites BEIJING PKG (PAL) \$ 418 KUALA LUMPUR \$ 168 BORACAY 4499<sup>7</sup> ALAWAN 3999 ( DAVAO 3999 BOHOU 39999 (CEBU 2258 CEBU+BOHOU 7998 2NIIss SAIGON PKG \$ 258 15 Days EUROPE TOUR \$2288 **GUAM PACKAGE** GUAM PACKAGE \$ 182

MBO TOURS AND TRAVEL SERVICES 2/F MC Bidg. 1095 Pablo Ocampo corner Conchu Sts., Malate, Manila Teis.: 484-3581 / 521-4744 / 484-3582 / 484-3583 / 522-1107

RAKS OFravel

KÖREA USD 935

KOREA USD 1455

Visit Your Travel Society Now! 3 www.raksotravel.com

O USD 707 ANY DAY DEPARTURE . 30:2M FREE AND EASY 4D/3N AIRTEL NEW YORK USD1254 AUSTRALIA USD1705 LAS VEGAS USD 1214

SAIGON OCT 26-29 USD 300 THE BEST OF DEP. DATE: SINGAPORE USD 261 HONG KONG USD271 EXQUISITE DER DATE: TAIPEI OCT 27-30 USD 7 BANGKOK USD 224 EVERPUR USD400 BEIJING OCT 27-30 USD628 TAIPEI USD408 JAKARTA USD376 CHINA OT 27 - HOY 1 USD 958 BAL USD394

HONOLULU USD 1039 MELBOURNE USD 790 S128 SIEM REAP SHOUL \$ 400 HONGNONG 258 PHHOM PEHH 440 BRUING 405 HONOURU MASSIAN 881 207 OSAKA LAX ASTO 490 VANCOUMER SINGAPORE 128 XIAWEN 218 HUGOYA 128 TAPE 128 NARITA 335 200個

C3 South CHINA **B1** Beijing 3 - 4 Days Peurl River Delta, Guilin Scenle Area, Shenthen; Zhuhai, Hainan Beijing, Tianjin, Chengde, Qinhuangdao 5 - 6 Days Tues, Fri B2-3 C4 Southwest China C1B-6 Beijing, Shanghai 6 Days Guiyang Huangguoshu Waterfal Kunuing, Stone Forest, Dall, Lijlang, Shangri-Lu and Tibet H1 Shanghai 3 - 4 Days Mon, Wed, C5 Southeast China Fri H2-3 Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou 4 - 6 Days Yangtze River Delta Cities; Huungshan (Yellow Mountain), C1A Beijing, Xian, Guilin 6 - 8 Days Friday Mt. Buyt, Fujian Tours, Tues, Fri C1B Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin 6 - 8 Days C6 Northeast China Helongjiong, Jilin, Llaoning, Dallen C1C Beijing, Xian, Shanghal, Guilin 8 - 10 Days Wed, Fri C7 Central China Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai 3 - 5 Days Tues, Fri G Confucious Temple, Mr. Butui, Longmen & Yangong Grottoes Xiamen, Quanzhou, Fuzhou 3 - 5 Days Friday Grand
Mercure

CROWNE PLAZA

INIKAO HOTELS

CROWNE PLAZA

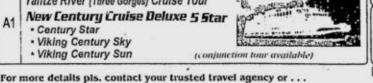
CROWNE PLAZA

CROWNE PLAZA C8 SICHUAN Jinzhaigou National Park, Huanglong World Natural Heritage Site, Mt. Ermei nal Park. Equatorial (3) RAMADA (II) Grand New World S SHERATON

http://www.pandatour.com

Yantze River (Three Gorges) Cruise Tour New Century Cruise Deluxe 5 Star

· Century Star · Viking Century Sky · Viking Century Sun (conjunction tour available)



Autonomous Region, Inner Mongolia Grassland, Qinghai und Mogao Grottens M JUSIST CURD PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC. 479 - 481 Sto. Cristo Street, Binondo, Manila Tels.: 242-2585 Trunk line Fax : 242-2650 ; 242-2652

C9 Hunan, Hubel

C10 Northwest China

Silk Road, Vingxla Islamic

Zhangjiajie National Forest Park. Mt. Hudang, 3 Gorges Dam Proj.

DOT153-00

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Christian V. Esguerra

with his sick mother.

WITH TALK OF A PRESIDEN-

tial pardon still up in the air,

convicted plunderer ex-Presi-

dent Joseph Estrada said yester-

day he would ask the Sandiganbayan to allow him longer visits

In a phone interview with the

INQUIRER, Estrada said his 102-

year-old mother, Mary Ejercito,

could go at anytime. Estrada

said he wanted to spend at least

three days with her in the hospi-

The court on Saturday grant-

ed him only a 10-hour daylight

pass from detention at his

Tanay, Rizal, estate to visit his

mother at San Juan Medical

"I hope the court would allow

me to spend a longer time with

her. I am not going to run away.

They should remember that I

was offered twice to leave the

country but I did not accept it,"

An unconditional pardon of-

fered by Malacañang would

have accorded him liberty to

visit his ailing mother but the

former president said he decid-

ed to exhaust all legal means to

overturn the guilty verdict met-

ed out to him in his plunder

case. He has filed a motion for

Estrada said he was firm

about accepting an absolute pardon only if it was offered to

him and entailed no admission

He had earlier said the main

Rufus Rodriguez,

Estrada said.

Exhaust all means

reconsideration.

ALL IN, NO HIDDEN CHARGES CHOORE AMONG THE 4 VALUE TOURS & GET DHONGKONG ANALY SHINKE THE ALL OF CAN STREET THE SECOND STATE OF T cools on pardon ASSUME PASSPORT P1099 Tonly \$ 3 0 4 5 0 \$ 100 5 60 50 0927-325.2964 438-3942 • 438-5165 439-8522 • 709.0364

COOL RAINY GETAWAYS HONGKONG \$ 80 | AUSTRALIA \$440 BANGKOK \$ 90 | LAXISFO \$575 SINGAPORE \$110 | EUROPE \$695 NARITA \$385 | NEWARK \$705 ENZHEN S120 | SZN + SHA + BEIJING+MACAU \$450 G+IN SHENZHEN \$190 | SAIGON PACKAGE \$238 \$238 1N HKG+IN SHENZHEN 5210 2N HKG+1N SHENZHEN 2N BKK+1N PATTAYA IN SZN+IN MACAU+IN HKG \$170 BANGKOK PACKAGE SINGAPORE PACKAGE 2N HONGKONG+1N MACAU \$340 KUALA PACKAGE 2N SZN+1N HKG+1N MACAU \$300 **AUSTRALIAN PACKAGE EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE** \$180 HOLYLAND PILGRIMAGE 3N SZN+DISNEYLAND \$380 HOLYLAND ADVENT \$2150

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGE \$219 3DIZN BANGKOK 4DI3N BKK+PATTAYA 4D/3N SHANGHAI \$178 **4D/3N BEIJING** \$258 3D/2N SINGAPORE \$268 4D/3N KUALA SIN/KUL/INDO 3D/2N BALI STIONAL PACKAGES 3D/2N JAKARTA \$306 \$498 DOMESTIC PACKAGES STICKET FARES TOKYO SYDNEY 3D/2N PALAWAN 3D/2N BORACAY 3D/2N CEBU P6,450 3D/2N BOHOL P5,220 \$747 3D/2N DIPOLOG

and other Domestic Packages Domestic Tickets also available First Time Immig. Fares & Other International Tickets SPECIAL PROMO: BUY 2 TAKE 1 Other Services: Passporting, Documentation Have 2 U.S. Visa Assistance and Immigration Assistance, Travel Insurance
Transportation Rental Get 1 Passport Processing FREE! LOTFOR SALE RODED VILL TAGAVIAY LOTFOR SALE: 315 SQ W

TICKETONLY HONGKONG SINGAPORE KUALA LUMPUR mu461046 \$150 135 355 355 SAIGON SINGAPORE - MALAYSIA - INDONESIA SEOUL BANGKOK - PATAYA 225 JAPAN HONGKONG - SHENZHEN 118 TAIPE 135 HONGKONG - SHENZHEN WY DISNETLAND 188 SHANGHAI HOWGKONG-SHENZEN-MACAU 175 XIAMEN AUSTRALIA SD-34 CHENTER CHANGHA: SE JING MACAL HONGKONG: BLOCKINGS 77-30 December: 47: LAX/SFO/SEA **NEW YORK** Singapore Banghok VANCOUVER

reason he was considering the offer was because of his mother. spokesperson of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, told the INQUIRER yesterday they fa-

\$188 | \$169 | EUROPE DOMESTIC TICKETS & PACKAGES ALSO AVAILABLE Magellan World Travel, Inc.

TEL MINE: 322-4000 to 11-820-5684 - 875-5637 - FEX No.: 826-5656

By Margaux C. Ortiz

> PHILIPPINE Coast Guard is set to hire 1,000 new recruits to boost its present strength of 4,000, according to PCG officer in charge Vice Admiral Danilo Abinoja.

> "We actually need an optimum number of 25,000 men and women to be able to perform our duties well," Abinoja told reporters in an interview last

He said it would

739

sorely lack." be about 10 years before the PCG He explained that could take in 10,000 more recruits. In the meantime, agency was given additional funds by the Department of Budget and Management to imple-

'Identity we lack' The PCG chief also said he would prioritize the passage of the Coast Guard during his Law "The law term. would finally give

DOLJUNTS INT'L TRAVEL & TOURS

ment.

us the identity we

lice and military." © 2140398 | 6872818 | 6872808 | 2140399 | 6872984 | 6872739 | 09178282189 | 6872836

MOBILE 0920-7893648, 0919-6826025,0927-9848978 HONGKONG \$199 \$118 IN SHENCHEN+IN MACAU+DISNEY \$ 149 KUALA LUMPUR SAIGON SHANGHAI BEUING MACAU (free & easy) \$209 MACAU + ZHUHAT \$279 MACAU IN / HWG IN / SZN IN \$209 BUDGET FARE \$189 HONOLILU
LAX / SFO / SEATTLE
NEW YORK/DCA/ORD
VANCOUVER
SYDNEY / MELBOURNE
ROME/LON/PARIS
KUALA LUMPUR
SINGAPORE
BANGNOK
HONGKONG 2N SZN + 1N MACAU BANGKOK \$159 BANGKOK + PATTAYA \$209 SINGAPORE \$209 SINGAPOREMALAYSIAMDONESIA \$268 KUALA LUMPUR \$168 KUALA LUMPUR+GENTING HILND \$198 KUALA + SINGAPORE \$289 HONGKONG \$199 LOCAL TOURS STAR CRUISES + HONGKONG SUBIC SAFARI TOUR GUAM \$368 SEOUL \$559 PUERTO GALERA \$159 BEIJING DAVAO SHANGHAVBEIJING/MACAU \$479 \$479 PALAWAN \$1,559 LAOAG \$1,648 BOHOL WEST COAST TOUR

pardon for Estrada because Malacañang was merely using the issue to "defuse" the raging National Broadband Network "The (NBN) controversy is al-

MONDAY,

**OCTOBER 1, 2007** 

Erap seeks more

time with ma,

ready spinning out of control so they need (Estrada) to divert the public's attention," Rodriguez said. Rodriguez noted that Mala-

cañang officials initiated the discussions on the possibility of granting Estrada a pardon at the height of the \$329-million NBN project controversy.

No less than First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo has been implicated in the controversy for allegedly telling Jose 'Joey de Venecia III to "back off" of the lucrative deal to China's ZTE Corp.

#### A political ploy

"The way they're treating him [Estrada]," Rodriguez said, "it would be better to forget about the Malacañang initiative, which is only a political ploy."

Last week, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, also the presidential adviser on political affairs, visited Estrada in detention at his Tanay, Rizal, estate to discuss the matter of a pardon.

Rodriguez said the Arroyo administration had since been "blowing hot and cold" on the pardon. He said he had received information that Puno was not really authorized to negotiate with Estrada.

Rodriguez said the decision to file a motion for reconsideration in the antigraft court was meant as a "safeguard" for Estrada in case Malacañang changed its mind about the pardon offer.

"Can you imagine if we didn't file it?" he said. "The ruling would have been final. And if the offer was withdrawn, where vored shelving the presidential would he go?"

# Coast Guard looking for 1,000 good men

being under a civilian agency, namely, the Department of Transportation and Communications, has posed problems for the Coast Guard, especially since the agency has always ment the recruitconsidered

'military in nature." "Civilian agencies require a retirement age of 65, while military men leave the service at 56," Abinoja said. "Personally, I believe PCG officers and personnel should retire at 56, just like their counterparts in the po-

#### Bill passed twice

He said he talked with Sen. Richard who Gordon, promised to push for the passage of the bill in the Senate.

"The bill has actually been passed twice in the lower house, but was snubbed in the Senate," the PCG chief said. "With Senator Gordon's support, we are hoping that we will finally have the identity we need with the passage of the Coast Guard Law."

traveling in appreciation of 1000's beautiful's bountiful creations HOLIDAY CRUISES JORDAN, HOLYLAND & LGYPT with Petra Od 26 No 6 \* \$ 1950 Highlights America No. No. 1985

\*Highlights America Halfar Elin Karson Fleelshour Stands Thomas Halfar Elin Karson Fleelshour Stands Thomas Halfar Elin Karson Fleelshour Standson Fleelshour Characteris Peak Standson Fleelshour Charles St. Carlon Fulle Riber Craise

EG 1PT extensive CRL ISE

Highlights Cule Co. 1989 18 1780 Pagaras Increases Fleelshour Cule Files Kan Chab \* 4fh Enna \* 1 care Kannak \* Valley of the King \* 1 care is for the single of Queen Hastingpool Schaller Cule Files \* 1 care is for the single Fleelshour Fleelshour Standson Fleelshour F ABIA AUSTRALIA/NZ MIXICO CARIBBRAN HAWAII BUROPII SOUTH AFRICA • 62168 s: Nairabi \* Sweetwaters \* Lake Nakuru \* Masai Mara \* Lake Naisuha PIRKKO & TROY TOURS INC

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007

### PWCTU is 78

THE PHILIPPINE WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN Temperance Union will celebrate its 78th anniversary and hold a general assembly on Oct. 6 at the Jade Vine on UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila. The theme of the celebration is: "Quality Life: Our Responsibility."

Villa Granada de Guia, PWCTU president, said Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim will be the guest of honor and speaker. Bishop Cezar Punzalan, president of the Philippine Bible Society, will deliver the inspirational message.

The chair of the event is Rosella Jean Puno, with Commissioner Elsie B. de Veyra as cochair. De Guia will deliver the president's report. There will be a program of songs and folk dances and door prizes.



VR. MODEL 1992-2007 656-0140/4112547-48/531-5577 RELEASE

**BUILD A BOXING GYM BUSINESS** FOR 50% LESS THAN FRANCHISE

0917-536-8638 DOTNET MULTIMEDIA 0917-8939691 CORPORATE GIVEAWAYS OFFSET PRINTING RUSH TARPAULIN CAN FINISH 24 HOURS

13.99 sq. ft. P 9.50 SQ. FT.

BROCHURES P 1.00 WEB DESIGN/MAINTENANCE VHS - DVD TRANSFER P150 RISOGRAPH P 220/RM PANAFLEX P 280/sq FT CD DUPLICATION P 3.00 LARGE VOLUME INDOOR AND OUTDOOR

NOVATION AND STRUCTURAL T-SHIRT/UMBRELLA/CAPS 895-4748

**Philippine Hotel** Reservations Service HOTEL DISCOUNTS WORLDWIDE! Savings at over 400 PHILIPPINE hotels and 20,000+ INTERNATIONAL destinations! No more calling hotels directly! Call 812-PHRS (812-7477) Text 0928-984-3664

Boracay + Bagulo + Mactan + Cebu + Davao + Pelawan + Malate + Ortigas Makati + Bacolod + Ilollo + Clark + Tagaytay... PLUS: Hongkong, China, Malaysia, S.Korea, Talwan, Thalland, Vietnam, Europe, Middle East, U.S. Cities and Canadal





The New Split Type Aircon Wall-Mounted 1hp-P16,500 1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000 2.5hp-P30,000, 4hp-P43,000 Floor Mounted 3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000 Ceiling Mounted 3hp-P39,500 4hp-P52,000 6hp-P65,000 Ceiling Cassette 3hp-P50,000 Also Available Window Type Aircon Free Installation

Call 816-3798,635-6815,556-1508,0917-794987,6

A valiable at: MC Home Oppot / Fort & Onliges

Cab (032)3465498 David (082)2358821

POWERMAN HARDWARE
- 528 T. ALONSO ST., STA, CRUZ. MANILA
TOL. No. 733-3711-736-9554-734-7534

J HIGH QUALITY

I will save the Filipino.

With brother Filipinos we will slay

Corruption, Treason, Immorality,

Illegitimacy in Governance.

Pls. reproduce, distribute, slick on your clothes, cars, homes,etc.

Contact nos. 09198749032 / 09266583004 / www.pcaph.org

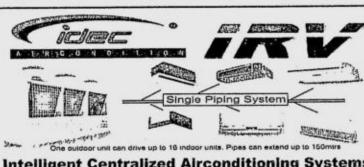
ALSO AVAILABLE:

MAG CROWN ELECTRICAL NA! Avoid frequent and costly repairs!
Crowns' POWER-MATCH formula
solves the problem of hazardous
electrical connections by using only
precision-fit Crown Electrical Fittings
with extra-strong Crownflex and
Crown Electrical Conduit uPVC Pipes. SUPERIOR STRENGTH PNS-14 (20 2 22 (回報) FOR BEST RESULTS & LONGER ELECTRICAL PROTECTION, SPECIFY CROWN PIPES & CROWN FITTINGS.

Preserve your precious videos. Before it's too late Let us convert your tapes into discs!

into DVD or VCD We also convert PAL to NTSC; Cassette / LP to CD. CD & DVD Duplication / Replication / Editing / Slideshows

Goldcrest Bldg. 0928-777-9777 ALABANG: Casa Susana Bldg, adrigal Ave, Alabang Town Ctr 807-2238 / 807-2678



Intelligent Centralized Airconditioning Systems High Energy Efficient - Easy to Install - Space Saving For Inquiries Call:3091105, 3091235, 09177949874

Video and Audio Recording for CCTV Surveillance System 言。25/40m为少红3 MDSEK-PAISHO non-stop recording for Real-time Images built-in time date generator simultaneous recording and playback auto repeat recording automatic daylight savings compact size of 210 mm width remote sûrveillance via NETWORK alarm counter INCLUDES: Audio Receivor
highly sensitve
10m radius effectivity feel free to call for more info

✓2Nights / 3Days Vacation **√Roundtrip Plane Tickets** 

√Breakfast Meals

**√Complete Kitchen Set** √VIP Island Transfers √First Class Villa

TXT AND WE CALL YOU! SUN CELLULAR: 0922.898.3577

GLOBE :

UNTIL OCTOBER15, 2007 Sheridan BORACAY ISLAND, PHILIPPINES 0917.627.3754



MCLE FOR LAWYERS

**36-UNIT FULL COURSE SEMINAR** (Credit units earned may be applied to the 1st, 2nd or 3nd compliance periods) 22<sup>nd</sup> MCLE - Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2007 Antipolo Room, Valle Verde Country Club, Capt. Henry Javier St., (beside ULTRA), Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 23rd MCLE - November 9, 10 16 & 17, 2007 24th MCLE - December 5, 6, 12 & 13, 2007 Sponsored by: ChanRobles LawNet, Inc. Tel No.: (632) 634-0741 to 45 Fax No.: (632) 634-0736

·····





567-3333

243-6565

www.CITYLAND.net

687-3333

818-8888



BE SMART! Let your money work for you.

# IPLE BUSINESSES MEAN MULTIPLE PROFIT POTENTIALS



✓ Internet Café

✓ Call center operation with ready clients ✓ Computer store and sales

✓ All-in-one e-loading

✓ VolP calling center

✓ Support & repair center

✓ Coffee shop with POS system

✓Printing, faxing & copying

✓ Photo printing & image editing ✓ Card powering

✓ Solution sales ✓ Bayad center & remittance

✓ Merchant Accreditation ✓ Area rental Low capital investment
 Full marketing and advertising support No franchise and royalty fees for the first 50 franchisees.

# Own an Intelligent Franchise.

Converged with technology under captured market environment.

www.rsifranchise.com (02) 376-5303 • (02) 376-5305

### of the security is destroyed the order a second and all the World ...

#### From page Al

so left for Burma on Sunday to convey international concerns over a deadly crackdown on antigovernment protests, while hundreds of Burmese nationals and activists staged demonstrations in Japan and South Korea.

Ibrahim Gambari, special envoy of the United Nations, went to the remote bunkerlike capital Naypyitaw on Saturday to meet with the junta and stayed overnight, diplomats said.

On Sunday, Gambari returned to Rangoon (Yangon) and was whisked off to the State Guest House to meet Suu Kyi, who was brought out of house arrest to see the UN envoy in what appeared to be an unexpected concession by the junta.

The meeting with Suu Kyi lasted about 90 minutes, said the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity citing protocol. Details of the meeting were not immediately known.

"I am following with great trepidation the very serious events," the Pontiff said during an appearance to pilgrims at his summer residence near Rome.

"I want to express my spiritual closeness to the dear population in this moment of the very painful trial it is going through," he added.

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Mitoji Yabunaka was scheduled to arrive in Rangoon on Sunday evening. Meetings were being arranged between Yabunaka and Burma's Foreign Minister Nyan Win and Home Affairs Minister Maj. Gen. Maung Oo.

Japanese officials have said that Yabunaka planned to protest the death of Japanese journalist Kenji Nagai, who was killed in Rangoon on Thursday when soldiers fired automatic weapons into a crowd of demon-

#### Diplomatic efforts

The flurry of diplomatic efforts came after the military government launched a bloody crackdown last week on demonstrations that began on Aug. 19 to protest a sharp increase in fuel prices.

The protests drew international attention after thousands of Buddhist monks joined the people in venting anger at decades of brutal military rule. At the height of the protests, some 100,000 peo-

ple turned out. The junta, which has a long history of snuffing out dissent, launched a crackdown on Wednesday and Thursday, opening fire into a crowd of peaceful protesters and arresting scores. Though the official death toll is 10, foreign diplomats, dissident groups say the number is likely much higher.

Despite Gambari's meetings, it was not clear how much influence the junta will allow the UN envoy to exert on Burma's af-

The United Nations has repeatedly failed to bring about a reconciliation between the military government and the prodemocracy opposition. Gambari and his predecessor, Razali Ismail of Malaysia, have also failed to secure freedom for Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace prize winner who has come to symbolize the struggle for democracy in Burma.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party won the 1990 general elections, which the junta called after crushing a much larger prodemocracy movement in 1988. But the party was never allowed to take power, and many of its top members were jailed. Suu Kyi has spent 12 of the last 18 years under house arrest.

#### 20,000 troops in Rangoon

On Sunday, the number of troops in Rangoon, Burma's largest city, swelled to about 20,000 after reinforcements arrived overnight, ensuring that almost all demonstrators would remain off the streets, another Asian diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

"The security forces are demonstrating their strength," the diplomat said. "I think the chance of protesters coming to the road and mobilizing enough people to topple the junta is zero.'

A few monks were seen in a neighborhood on their customary morning round for alms.

"We are not going to protest any more. Rather we will conduct peaceful protests. We Buddhists believe that dhamma (Buddha's teachings) will finally win over evil," said one monk.

People suspected of leading or organizing this week's rallies continue to be arrested, the Asian diplomat said, estimating the total number could be as high as 1,000 including several prominent members of the NLD. They joined an estimated 1,100 other political detainees who have languished in jails since before the current turmoil began.

#### Int'l reaction

The crackdown has triggered an unprecedented verbal flaying of Burma's generals from almost every corner of the world-even some criticism from No. 1 ally China, which said it was "very much concerned about the current situation.

China urged the ruling junta to "exercise restraint and use peaceful means to restore

its stability as soon as possible." Many people see China, Burma's biggest trading partner, as the most likely outside catalyst for change.



SHAN villagers in a remote region in eastern Burma along the border with Thailand protest against Burma's military rulers in this photo released by the Free Burma

# Burma protest movement has not been smothered

From page Al

newspapers around the globe shattered the euphoria that another bloodless people power might be putting an end to 45 years of military dictatorship.

The democracy campaign took a bloody turn on Friday when soldiers charged into crowds near Sule Pagoda, the focus of more than a week of protests that started on Aug. 15 when the military junta decided to double the price of gasoline and diesel, while the price of liquefied gas, which fuels buses, went up fivefold. These unexpected increases in the cost of living triggered protests from the people who have long endured economic hardships.

The protests were at first small but grew when the Buddhist monks demonstrated peacefully to support the movement. Troops were sent out to break up the protests in which some monks were injured, bringing more monks from their monastery to the streets.

#### Political turn

The protests took a political turn late last week when a group of monks and lay people marched through the barricades blocking the road to the home of Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the opposition who has spent 12 of the past 18 months under house arrest.

The demonstrations swelled up to 100,000 toward the weekend, and

demands to calls that the demonstra- across the country. Ne Win subsetions would not stop until the junta stepped down.

On Saturday, as the crowds became more defiant, soldiers warned the protesters to vacate public places or be shot within 10 minutes. The protesters chanted, "Give us freedom! Give us freedom!"

Then the troops charged into the crowds and fired at them. Diplomats said many more were killed than the official count of 13. Troops raided

monasteries and arrested monks. The monks are revered in Burma more than the priests and nuns in Catholic Philippines, who actively led the People power movement in 1986.

#### Worst crackdown since 1988

The crackdown was the worst since the massacre in 1988, when political unrest broke out after Gen. Ne Win, the ruler then, had suddenly cancelled in 1987 certain currency notes, wiping out savings of the people, and compounding years of economic mismanagement.

Protests over the mounting economic crisis were started by Burmese students.

In March 1988, students protesting in Rangoon clashed with the military, and a student was shot dead. The death triggered further protests as the students were joined by ordinary citizens and monks.

In August 1988, hundreds of thouthe crowd escalated their economic sands people joined the protests

warned that "when the army shoots, it shoots straight." In September, events proved Ne Win right. Soldiers sprayed automatic rifle fire into the crowds. Human rights groups say at least 3,000 people were killed. A junta took power.

The current junta, led by Gen. Than Shwe, is no less ruthless than Ne Win. His junta proved this in the crackdown on the last week's protests.

#### Didn't lose nerve

The Burmese junta also did not lose its nerve in the crackdown.

Marcos' military blinked when confronted by the civilian mass blocking the tanks moving toward Camp Crame to crush the military rebellion that dug in there. The mutiny at Camp Aguinaldo had opened up cracks in the Marcos military.

Some Marcos military commanders disobeyed his orders to move to Crame when confronted by the civilian mass mobilized by the Catholic Church hierarchy. Marcos wavered, fearing that if the tanks fired on the Edsa mass, he would provoke a massacre branding him as the butcher of his people.

Besides, Washington had warned Marcos not to use violence. Also, he had uncovered a coup plot by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, mand. Marcos was gravely ill from lu-

Gen. Than Shwe is rumored to be quently resigned as party leader but suffering from cancer and receiving treatment in Singapore, which has been supplying his regime military technology and has substantial business relations with Burma.

#### Condemnation

The crackdown has provoked widespread condemnation from the Western democracies, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), and appeals for restraint from Japan, India, Russia and China, all of which have extensive economic relations with Burma.

Economic sanctions announced by the United States and Britain have little impact on restraining Burma from repression on the democracy movement. The punitive measures cannot work because Burma's ties with its economic partners provide it with a counter to the sanctions from the United States and Britain.

The junta scorns Asean, of which Burma is a member, because of Asean's policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of its members. With all this rhetoric of outrage over the crackdown, international pressure is of little help to the Burmese heroic democracy movement that has been demoralized by the crackdown.

There are reports that the protest movement is looking for cracks in the unity of the junta. Resistance has not showing fissures in the military com-. 'been smothered. It is growing and fueling rage among the brutalized people and the monks.



# Talk to media, Army chief advises commanders

ing from the usually tight-lipped military culture, Army chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano has encouraged his field commanders to "engage the media" and take a proactive public relations stance. This would not only avoid misinformation, but it would show the more humane side of the Armed

Forces of the Philippines, he said. Yano gave the go-signal for the commanders to make themselves more accessible to the media during a recent visit to the 1st Infantry Division in Pulakan, Zamboanga del Sur, and the 102nd In-

ga del Norte. "Engage the media when they

DIGITAL

PLATFORM

PLATFORM

ask for interviews. It's better if they get it straight from the horse's mouth, especially when they need details about encounters and battles," he said in a briefing with his commanders.

to comment, the media resorts to interviewing unauthorized sources which leads to misinformation.

missions. But not about ZTE or the National Broadband Network project, although I myself have been asked about it," he said, stressing that the military should not meddle in the country's political affairs.

Yano said field commanders should also "talk about the military's non-traditional projects" hearts and minds of the people.

He said commanders could speak in forums for the public to know and better understand the Armed Forces.

organization. You are the face of the units or in the Armed Forces. organization," Yano told the com-Other fights distracting

"Talk about your areas, your like disaster relief and other manders. "Convey a positive image civic projects that help win the to the public. [Tell them about] the good things we are doing, otherwise our efforts will go to waste."

Yano, however, did not say if the commanders could comment on, or discuss, soldiers' "Be very active. You represent the grievances, problems in their

Nikko Dizon





CAMPBRIDGE Tel: 252-0531

Yano said when officers refuses fantry Battalion in Ipil, Zamboan-

> Army from war with Reds Printing life

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY, STRETCHED BY skirmishes with Muslim separatist groups, is falling behind in its aim to wipe out the communist insurgency before the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term in 2010, according to Maj. Gen. Jogy Leo Fojas, head of military operations.

Fojas, in a radio interview yesterday, said the Army had failed to meet its half-year target in the campaign against the communist New People's Army (NPA).

"As of the first semester 2007, we have on-

ly dismantled three guerrilla fronts," Fojas said. "Our target for the whole of 2007 was 18 guerrilla fronts. Our field commanders are still doing their best to meet the target."

Fojas gave no reason for missing the target, but an intelligence official told Reuters that security forces had been sidetracked by the elections last May, as well as by efforts to hunt down Islamic militants in the South.

'Our troops are thinly spread across the archipelago and we moved so many resources to address the more immediate threat posed by Islamic militants from the Abu Sayyaf," said the senior intelligence official, who asked not to be identified.

"We were too busy putting out fires here and there in the first half of the year, but we've really not neglected the communists. In some cases, the rebels just took advantage of the vacuum left by the movement of our forces," he said.

#### 'Bantay Laya II'

Fojas said military field commanders had made commitments to redouble their efforts. He cited the latest military intelligence estimates showing that the NPA strength had fallen to about 6,300 fighters at the end of June, down 900 from the end of 2006.

"We've made some significant gains but we're pushing our commanders in the field to do more to meet our goal of strategically defeating the communist insurgency by 2010 based on our campaign plan," Fojas said.

Under its counterinsurgency plan, codenamed "Bantay Laya II" (Guard Freedom II), the military aims to dismantle about 80 percent of the 100 NPA guerrilla fronts in 69 of 81 provinces arcoss the country.

About 18 guerrilla fronts were targeted for dismantling this year and the remaining 62 rebel bases to be destroyed between January 2008 and June 2010.

Since 1969, more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict, one of the longest Maoist-led rebellions in Asia.

A senior general said yesterday the Philipoines was buying 10 second-hand UH-1H helicopters for \$8.8 million from Singapore next year to beef up its depleted fleet.

"We're really short of helicopters. We only have 41 helicopters in flying condition but, ideally, we should have 100 aircraft to perform our mission," said Maj. Gen. Pedro Ike Inserto, the Air Force vice commander.

Reuters









every P500 single or accumulated

entitles you to join the raffle promo

9ee meditanics posterio gestals. 🚓 ເລີຣ ້ Par OTI-NCR Permit no. (3-0775) 9erise of 2007

purchase from Oct.1 to Nov.15





Monday, October 1, 2007 26th Week in Ordinary Time Thérèse of the Child Jesus

1st Reading: Gospel:

Zec 8:1-8 Luke 9:46-50

One day the disciples were arguing about which of them was the most important. But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he took a little child and stood him by his side. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. And listen: the one who is found to be the least among you all, is the one who is the greatest."

Then John spoke up, "Master, we saw someone who drove out demons by calling upon your name, and we tried to forbid him because he doesn't follow you with us." But Jesus said, "Don't forbid him. He who is not against you is for you." Commentary

God speaks of returning to Jerusalem. God wants the people he loves to be his faithful city, like the mountain of God where the law was given and where the covenant was proclaimed and accepted. A remnant of the people will be brought home, for nothing is impossible for God. The people will be rescued and they will be brought back from all the places of exile. God will take them back closely to himself again.

Jesus seeks to draw all people especially those who claim to be his own. He takes a little child into their midst and says, "Welcome this child and you welcome me and the One who sent me. The least among you is the greatest." The child in Jesus' time had no power. Children were seen as slaves, with no rights. Some were loved but many were not-they were like outsiders, outcasts, the ill, all who had disobeyed the law (not until they became adults at 12 did they figure into the community). Jesus tells us that all these are the ones we are to welcome, to place in our midst as honored and blest. Do

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missioneries in the Philippines) naries in the Philippines)



# Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City .P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
 Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 - Advertising 897-4807 \*Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34. \*Subscription Hotline 896-6000



#### Protect us

AST WEEK, WHILE THE COUNTRY WAS ABsorbed in the latest twists of the National Broadband ▲ Network telenovela, the Supreme Court issued the Rule on the Writ of Amparo. The new package of protections will become effective on Oct. 24-just a little over three months after the high court convened an extraordinary "national consultative summit" on political killings and politically motivated disappear-

EDITORIAL

This is, in truth, remarkable. The pace of judicial innovation is virtually unprecedented, a reflection of the judiciary's sense of urgency over the crisis of political violence that continues to disturb the country. At the same time, it cannot be said that the high court threw all caution to the wind; a study of the process and the Rule it produced soothes our concerns. The court made haste, but slowly.

Patterned after a legal remedy born out of the constitutional struggles of Latin American democracies, the writ takes its name after the Spanish "amparar," meaning "to protect." But as the Supreme Court itself took pains to point out, the scope of protection offered by the Philippine writ is wider than those it had been modeled after.

"The petition for a writ of amparo," Section 1 of the new Rule states, "is a remedy available to any person whose right to life, liberty and security is violated or threatened with violation by an unlawful act or omission of a public official or employee, or of a private individual or entity."

Under the writ, the family of, say, a peasant leader believed to have been abducted by a military unit or a private army can petition the judiciary to compel the unit or the private group to undergo a legal undertaking that will force them to account for their actions. No more blanket denials. As the last provision of Section 9 declares: "A general denial of the allegations in the petition shall not be allowed."

Some concerns have been raised, about the new Rule's seeming lack of sympathy for or even outright hostility to public officials, in particular the members of the country's armed services. We understand these concerns, but we cannot agree with the view they reflect, because it is based on a lack of understanding of the dual nature of all laws.

The Constitution itself bears witness to this duality. It grants enormous powers to the government and its instrumentalities; at the same time, it grants ample protection to the citizenry, precisely against the possibility of governmental intervention. What, for instance, is the Bill of Rights, if not the primary package of protections for citizens, citizens who may need to fight either the encroachments or the blandishments of the State?

The new Rule, therefore, does not discriminate against public authorities; instead, it recognizes the dignity of their office as well as the nature of public service. Thus, the standard the new Rule requires of public officials or employees, that they must render "extraordinary diligence" in performing their duties (contrasted with the "ordinary diligence" required of private persons), is not an added burden-it is a necessary corollary of their work.

The new Rule also includes four virtually new legal remedies: the temporary protection order, the inspection order, the production order and the witness protection order. Together, they make the new Rule a true landmark—one that entirely alters the legal landscape.

To be sure, some infelicities or imprecisions have found their way into the new Rule. The second provision of Section 1, which states that "The writ shall cover extralegal killings and enforced disappearances or threats thereof," raises the question whether coverage here is meant exclusively-thus narrowing the scope of the writ (as outlined in the fourth paragraph of this editorial, above).

Section 5 requires the petitioner to provide "The name and personal circumstances of the respondent responsible for the threat, act or omission"-an unfortunate phrasing that may be understood to mean that the respondent perceived to be responsible and the person actually responsible are the same.

Section 16, which punishes respondents who fail to respond to the writ, is vague on the actual penalty.

But taken all together, and in the light of key provisions that, for instance, waive docket fees and allow the filing of a petition "on any day and at any time," the new Rule gives actual and potential victims of political violence both legal relief and real hope.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. NoLASCO Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY Associate Editor for Readership Rosanio A. Garcellano News Editor Artemio T. Engracia Jr. . Chief, Page One Operations NILO B. Paurom Chief, News Day Desk Ruben G. ALABASTRO Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA National Editor Pergentino B. BANDAYREL JR. Senior Desk Editor Juan V. SARMIENTO JR. Editorial Consultant Amando Doronila

> Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE AVP for Circulation SANDY SIMON R. YAP

Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL readersadvacute@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission



### The Ynares-Santiago decision on QC land case

THE BIG CONTROVERSY IN THE JUDICIARY at present is the alleged P10-million bribery attempt on a justice of the Supreme Court. That justice was subsequently identified as Associated the control of the property of the control of the ate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, who de-nied the alleged bribery and asked for an investigation to prove her innocence. A later news report said Justice Santiago is handling a big land case in Quezon City.

I went to the Supreme Court and got a copy of a decision on a land case in Quezon City whose ponente is Justice Santiago. I am not saying that this is the land case in question but it could be it. It is about the ownership of a big tract of prime land in Matandang Balara, be-tween Ayala Heights and the Capitol Golf course and the compound of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

The contending parties are the heirs of Severino Manotok and the heirs of Homer L. Barque. Considering its location and size, the property is worth billions of pesos. The property was awarded to the Barque heirs. The Manotok heirs appealed to the Court of Appeals and later to the Supreme Court, both of which affirmed that the title of the Barques was genuine and that of the Manotoks spurious. The Quezon City Register of Deeds was ordered to cancel TCT No. RT-22481 of the Manotoks and the Land Registration Authority to reconstitute TCT No. T-210177 of the Barques.

The Supreme Court decision penned by Justice Santiago and concurred in justices of the first division (Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Associate Justices Leonardo Quisumbing and Adolfo Azcuna; Justice Antonio Carpio dissented) was issued on Dec. 12, 2005 and became final and executory on May 2, 2006.

Recently, however, the Manotoks, one of whose counsels was retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Florentino Feliciano, was able to have the Supreme Court accept a petition for the reopening of the case and remanding it to the Regional Trial Court for further proceedings, in spite of the lapse of almost two years and the decision having become final and executory. It is this issue that is now upsetting not only the high As I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

court but also the whole judicial system. How did this come about? The problem started in 1988 when fire gutted the Quezon City Hall, including the Office of the Register of Deeds of Quezon City and thousands of land titles. One of the titles burned was TCT 210177 of the Barques, who filed a petition for reconstitution of their title with the LRA.

However, they found out that the Manotoks already have an administratively reconstituted title, TCT RT-22481. The Manotoks opposed the petition for reconstitution of the Barques, claiming that the lot covered by the title under reconstitution forms part of the land covered by their own reconstituted title, and alleging that TCT 210177 is spurious.

But the LRA ruled that "based on the documents presented, petitioners have established by clear and convincing evidence that TCT 210177 was, at the time of the destruction thereof, valid, genuine, authentic and effective."

It ordered that the reconstitution of TCT 210177 in the name of Homer L. Barque Sr. be given due course. However, notwithstanding its conclusion that the title of the Manotoks was fraudulently reconstituted, the LRA said it is only the Regional Trial Court which can declare that the same was indeed fraudulently reconstituted, and that the Barque title can be reconstituted only after a judicial declaration that the Manotok title was void and therefore should be cancelled.

The litigants went to the Court of Appeals which affirmed the LRA resolution. The Barques filed a motion for reconsideration. On Sept. 7, 2003, the Court of Appeals reconsidered its earlier decision and ordered the Quezon City Register of Deeds to cancel TCT RT-22481 and the LRA to reconstitute TCT 210177.

The Manotoks appealed to the Supreme

Court. They contend that (a) the LRA has no authority to annul their title; (b) the reconstitution of the Barques' title would be a collateral attack on their existing title; (c) they were not given the opportunity to be heard; (d) the Court of Appeals, in resolving the appeal from the LRA, has no jurisdiction to order the can-cellation of their title; and (e) the ruling on Ortigas vs. Velasco was misapplied.

The Supreme Court denied the Manotok pe-

The Supreme Court declared that the "LRA has jurisdiction to act on petitions for reconstitution... (and) can properly deliberate on the validity of the titles submitted for reconstitution. Logically, it can declare a title as sham or spurious, or valid on its face."

The Supreme Court also declared: "There is no basis in the allegation that the [Manotoks] were deprived of 'their property' without due process of law when the Court of Appeals or-dered the cancellation of their Torrens title, even without a direct proceeding in the RTC ... By opposing the petition for reconstitution and submitting their administratively reconstituted title, [the Manotoks] have acquiesced to the authority and jurisdiction of the reconstituting officer, the LRA and the Court of Appeals, and recognized their authority to pass judgment on

The tribunal added: "The reconstitution would not constitute a collateral attack on the [Manotok] title which was irregularly and illegally issued in the first place.... Titles secured through fraud and misrepresentation cannot be the source of legitimate rights and benefits."

The Supreme Court concluded: "It would be needlessly circuitous to remand the case to the RTC to determine anew which of the two titles is sham or spurious and thereafter appeal the trial court's ruling to the Court of Appeals ... The remand of a case or an issue to the lower court for further reception of evidence is not necessary where the Court is in position to resolve the dispute based on the records before it and particularly where the ends of justice would not be subserved by the remand there-

## 'Tinimbang ka pa rin'

I'LL GIVE THE BEST PERFORMANCE AWARD in the Senate hearing last week to Mar Roxas. He didn't just ask the right questions, he showed the right reaction to perfidy.

I too was bowled over by Romulo Neri's testimony at the Senate, but not in the way he advertised it beforehand. His revelation about Benjamin Abalos trying to bribe him was of course eye-popping enough in itself. "Sec, may 200 ka dito" ranks up there with the most nefarious quotable quotes in this country, along with "So will I still win by one million?" and "What are we in power for?" I'm surprised nobody has yet made a T-shirt out of it.

Abalos of course denied it, but he never came close to showing why the Neda chief would put his life and career at risk by lying about something like that. Indeed, as Richard Gordon dredged up during his turn, Abalos has a nasty habit of getting into projects costing the taxpayer billions of pesos that end up being scrapped by the Supreme Court for being anomalous. Gordon did not call Abalos a liar and thief to his face, but he might as well have done so.

But eye-popping as that is, that was not what bowled me over in last week's hearings. What did was Neri's own reaction to his revelation.

Upon Roxas' questioning, Neri said: One, there was no doubt in his mind Abalos tried to bribe him with P200 million. Two, he did not rebuke Abalos, etiquette dictating it as the Comelec chief was his host—the bureaucracy "has its own way of doing things." Three, he was however bothered by Abalos' overtures enough to report it to his (not our) President. Four, his President did nothing about it, and so the project went on and ended up in his lap. Five, he approved it anyway—he would not say if at the behest of his President or not on grounds of "executive privilege." Six, he did so despite the actual offer of bribe to him and possible bribes to other officials because the ZTE project still seemed feasible, he figured the bribes would come from the "profit margin' expected from the project. Seven, the solution to all this is to openly bid out the project.



Roxas could only expostulate while groping for words that he was shocked by Neri's blithe attitude toward wrongdoing. I share his sentiments completely. There and then, you see the vicious stupidities that have taken hold of this

At the very least, Neri's argument reminds me of the one that says that even if GMA stole votes with Garci's help, she "probably won anyway" and deserved to be President. It's the same logic: Even though the ZTE project was weighed down by bribes, it was probably still feasible and deserved to push through. Can anything be more viciously stupid or nastily insane? You catch a student cheating in the final exams, you do not ask if he probably passed notwithstanding the cheating, you void his exam and expel him. You catch a President cheating in elections, you do not ask whether she probably won notwithstanding the cheating, you void the results and throw her in jail. You catch the proponents of a project offering bribes, you do not ask if the project remains feasible notwithstanding the bribes, you void the project and throw the bribers in jail.

Cheating in exams, stealing the vote and bribing an official are crimes in and of themselves and void whatever springs from them. Have we become a race of moral cretins we can no longer see that? Have we become a race of the damned we settle for salvaging what we can from what is wrong rather than demanding what is right? That is clearly what the Neda chief has become. That is clearly what his boss has, well, always been.

At the very most, there we go with that "let's move on" attitude again, which has become the biggest bane of this country. What is Neri's judged and found-abject.

solution to the problem? It is to make everything disappear, including the fact that his boss did absolutely nothing after he reported a gross malefaction to her, and very probably did absolutely everything to make it pros-per—which was why he had to approve the project anyway-by simply opening broadband to bidding. Do we recognize the pattern? Didn't GMA's people say exactly the same thing a couple of years ago, let's forget that someone stole the presidency, tapos na 'yan, let's move on, let's just make sure it doesn't happen again-by Charter Change?

As life, history and common sense show, there is only one way to stop a crime from happening again: That is by punishing the criminal. A bribe is a crime, whether it is 200 million pesos or two hundred centavos. Hell, it is a crime whether it is 200 centavos or 200 tansan, and whether the tansan carry the offer of "Free Coke" or not. You want to stop something like ZTE from happening again, punish the Com-elec chief who offered the bribe, the President who condoned the bribe (for reasons that owe to owing the Comelec chief for past crimes), and the government officials who helped make the bribe prosper-including the Neda chief, while taking into account his (partial) efforts to make amends.

I am not inappreciative of what Neri has done, which is to reject Abalos' bribe and go on to expose it. It is not every day we see someone spurning a fortune, which lives up to the Christian injunction that it does not profit a man if he gains P200 million but loses his soul. But that doesn't make up for the things he has done (or not done) and said (or not said).

At one point in the hearings, Panfilo Lacson asked him if, by refusing to talk about what his boss wanted done with ZTE, Neri wasn't missing a historic opportunity to show his true worth. Neri replied: "I will be the judge of that."

What can I say? Nope, you won't. The public Tinimbang ka, ngunit kulang. You were

### A 'religion of secrecy'

"I WAS STRUCK DUMB WITH ASTONISHMENT at the sentiments . . . [t]hat the executive alone shall have the right of judging what shall be kept secret, and what shall be made public, and that the representatives of a free people, are incompetent to determine on the interests of those who delegated them." -Benjamin Franklin.

"Bureaucracy naturally welcomes a poorly informed and hence a powerless parliament-at least in so far as ignorance somehow agrees with the bureaucracy's interests." -Max Weber

Ironically, three months before Watergate, US President Richard M. Nixon had this quote: "[W]hen information which properly belongs to the public is systematically withheld by those in power, the people soon become ignorant of their own affairs, distrustful of those who manage them, and-eventually-incapable of determining their own destinies."

Arthur Schlesinger Jr. wrote in his "The Imperial Presidency": a "religion of secrecy" serves as an "all-purpose means by which the American Presidency [may] dissemble its purposes, bury its mistakes, manipulate its citizens, and maximize its

This, apparently, is the model for Secretary Romulo Neri's appeal to executive privilege.

But is executive privilege without constitutional foundation? This was the view of Raul Berger in his book "Executive Privilege: a Constitutional Myth." Most scholars together with the US and Philippine Supreme Court do not agree with Berger.

Indeed, executive privilege did not yet have that name when Washington denied a congressional request for presidential material regarding the failure of a 1791 military expedition by Gen. Arthur St. Clair against American Indians.

Thomas Jefferson withheld correspondence deemed secret from both the public and Congress. So did James Madison and later President Monroe and much later Eisenhower.

Early Presidents all recognized that executive privilege occasionally was necessary for the effective discharge of the President's duties. But it was

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



not until the Nixon presidency that the US Supreme Court officially baptized presidential secrecy with a name. The Court recognized the necessity for the President to be able to consult with his advisers without fear of public disclosure of their advice. Averell Harriman expressed it well: "[T]he President is entitled to receive the frank views of his advisers and therefore must be able to protect the personal or confidential nature of their communications with him." So did William P. Bundy: "[I]f officers of an administration should come to feel that their confidential advice would be disclosed, short of a period of many years, I do believe that the consequences in terms of honesty, candor, courage and frankness within the executive branch could be very serious indeed."

In United States v. Nixon, the Supreme Court agreed: "The valid need for protection of communications between high government officials and those who advise and assist them in the performance of their manifold duties ... is too plain to require further discussion. Human experience teaches that those who expect public dissemination of their remarks may well temper candor with a concern for appearances and for their own interests to the detriment of the decision making process.... [T]he confidentiality of Presidential communications has ... constitutional underpinnings.... The privilege is fundamental to the operation of Government and inextricably rooted in the separation of powers under the Constitution.'

Like any good thing, however, executive privilege can be misused and abused. It has been. Observers give numerous examples, especially after the post-Watergate period. As one scholar noted, such examples give executive privilege a bad reputation. For

this reason Presidents Ford, Carter and the older Bush avoided using the words executive privilege and protected secrecy through other means.

The current administration's aggressive use of executive privilege through EO 464 calls for a serious examination of the legitimacy of its uses. No amount of exorcism, however, will drive away executive privilege. After all, it has its legitimate place. What is needed is a proper balance. Toward this end there are certain basic guidelines that must be kept in mind.

First, in a constitutional regime that is predicated on official accountability, executive privilege must be the exception and executive transparency the rule.

Second, since executive privilege is not an unfettered power, Congress has the right and sometimes the duty to challenge presidential claims of privilege. This is especially true when the presidential claim is not based on the need to protect national security or to protect the privacy of Cabinet deliberations when needed in the public interest.

Third, both sides of the debate must recognize that there are no precise boundary lines that divide transparency and secrecy. The precise demarcation lines cannot be determined in advance. The lines must be determined through the political dynamics of separation of powers. In the end, the Court must draw the line, if need be, after an in camera hearing.

For that matter, the limits on the often abused power of legislative inquiry in aid of legislation or the oversight function of Congress are not clear

It is in this light that we should measure what is expected of Neri. But my sense is that he is hiding something that is illicit and explosive. If the controversy turns out to be a case of an irresistible force facing an immovable wall, Congress is not without weapons to batter the wall. Aside from its subpoena and contempt powers, Congress can also withhold support for the presidential agenda or tighten its control of government purse strings. The ultimate weapon, of course, is impeachment, or the threat thereof.

### Selective courage from resident nerd

THIS MORNING, DIRECTOR GENERAL AVELINO "SONNY" Razon takes over as chief of the Philippine National Police. Razon graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1974 and is the last of his class to assume a position of major responsibility among the nation's security forces. His other classmates like incumbent chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino

and Navy chief Vice Adm. Rogelio Calunsag, start leaving the service early next

The Philippine Army is now led by a member of class 1976, Lt. Gen. Yano.

Ramon J. Farolan



Alexander This incoming group of officers represents the future of the Armed Forces. By virtue of his appointment as Army commander, Yano will likely succeed Esperon come February 2008. Perhaps the strongest contender other than Yano would be Lt. Gen. Cardozo Luna, the present chief of Eastern Mindanao Command (EASMINCOM) based in Davao City. Either Yano or Luna would make an excellent chief of staff of the AFP. Both have service reputations of being upright, dedicated professionals. Luna, a member of class of 1975, used to be with the Philippine Constabulary before it was reorganized as the Philippine National Pr lice. He then transferred to the Philippine Army. Lt. Gen Pedrito Cadungog, the present AFP deputy chief of staff looms as the next Air Force commander, while Rear Adm. Emilio Marayag Jr., is a strong contender for Navy flag officer in command.

Which brings me once again to the revolving door arrangements favored by this administration when it comes to the leadership of the armed forces. Even when both the Senate and the House of Representatives passed a bill last November providing for a fixed term for the AFP chief of staff as well as the major service commanders-a reform move supported by former Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz-President Macapagal-Arroyo decided to stick to a practice which flies in the face of common sense management principles. Perhaps it is an indication of a deep sense of insecurity. And this is reflected in the current crisis of confidence and credibility in the wake of the NBN scan-

The Armed Forces of the Philippines will probably have to wait a bit longer before the light at the end of the tunnel comes into view.

The NBN Senate hearings continue to hog the limelight in both print and television coverage. Much has already leen said and reported. A number of our senators have had their forty seconds of fame, basking under the glare of full publicity. Let me just point out one interesting observation made in the late hours of the Senate hearing which had Chairman Benjamin Abalos and former Neda chief Romulo Neri as star

In grilling Secretary Neri on his role in the approval of the broadband project, Sen. Manuel Roxas II used the word "stunning" to describe the current level or standard of morality that seems to be prevalent among public officials today. Roxas pointed out that here was a Cabinet secretary being offered a 200-something bribe to get a project through the paperwork. He reports the matter to the President and advises his staff to be more careful in evaluating the whole thing. He then proceeds to give his imprimatur on the project, sidestepping the bribery attempt and explaining that Neda was mostly concerned with the viability of a project, other details being left to the line agency concerned. He names the bribe-offeror but then invokes "executive privilege" to protect himself from further questioning. Clearly a case of selective courage in the face of

the enemy. Some wise guy suggested that perhaps Neri the nerd thought he was being offered 200 pesos for his caddy since he was in the midst of a golf game with friends and interest-

Incidentally, I have to relate this story for the benefit of

Senator Roxas. When I was a young boy in junior high at St. Mary's College in Honolulu-my father was consul general in Hawaii at that time-I came home one afternoon to find a stranger lying in my bed. I was about to kick his butt and shove him out when my father cautioned me not to disturb the stranger. It turned out to be the young Gerardo Roxas, Mar Roxas' father, who was on his way to the United States for college studies. Just before his plane landed in Honolulu, word reached the Philippine consulate that President Manuel Roxas had died of a heart attack after a speaking engagement at Clark Air Base. It was the sad task of my father to inform Gerry Roxas and that he had to fly back to Manila immediately. He was invited to rest for a few hours at our place while waiting for his return flight. My father was the first press secretary of President Manuel Roxas and was also one of the pioneers of the Philippine Foreign Service, courtesy of Roxas.

The latest findings by Transparency International (TI) showed that the Philippines had dropped by 10 notches in a survey of perceptions of public sector corruption in 180 countries. The TI report is a composite index of 14 expert opinion surveys. From 121 last year, the Philippines dropped to 131, sharing this slot with Yemen, Burundi, Iran, Honduras and Libya.

While corruption in the country seems to be on the rise, we also have to take notice of high growth rates during the past year. Without questioning government figures on this issue, one way of looking at corruption and high growth rates is the view expressed by Paul Volcker, former chairman of the Federal Reserve and currently head of the World Bank investigation committee on anti-corruption

In a recent interview in Newsweek, Volcker was asked: "Corruption and high growth rates co-exist in many countries today. Isn't that a sign that we should not overemphasize corruption?" His reply: "It is hard to overemphasize corruption. There is more and more evidence that corruption is an obstacle to growth. That doesn't mean that some countries with particular advantages can't grow with corruption, but they might grow faster without it."

Perhaps, we could grow even faster if we had less of corruption. In our case, that involves leadership by example.

REVEILLE

## Repression and democracy deficit in Burma

THIS IS THE TIME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL community, the people and governments of the world especially those in Asean, to extend their solidarity for the people of Burma (Myanmar). This is a critical time to extend their globalized solidarity for the struggling people at the hour of their need. The military junta of Burma-calling itself the "State Peace and Development Council" (SPDC)—which has ruled this country for more than four decades is again trying to violently crack down on non-violent protests. In 1988, an estimated 3,000 people peacefully protesting the junta's policies were butchered on the streets of

Rangoon (Yangon). The protests in the streets in the last two weeks or so have been led by Buddhist monks in many parts of Burma. They have been sparked by the 500-percent increase in fuel prices overnight, affecting the price of essential commodities and public transport. The skyrocketing fuel prices are said to be part of the military junta's economic and financial reform program, coinciding with the highlevel mission to Burma by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The Burmese military rulers led by Gen. Than Shwe want to privatize the national fuel distribution system and to sell the retail outlets to a private company, probably Tay Za and his Htoo Trading Group. Fuel state subsidies would have to be removed to make the business profitable, destroy the black market and

deliver a monopoly. These recent economic policies have caused great hardship for the Burmese people who are not even allowed to complain by the military rulers, sparking nationwide marches and protests led by the traditionally non-political Buddhist monks. And there is no institutionalized check and balance to the economic mismanagement of the junta. More than 100,000 protestors in a muffled nation of 42,642,000 people have joined the

#### COMMENTARY

Roland G. Simbulan

Mawlamyaing, Bago and Pathein.

Two weeks ago, Asia's thriving and struggling social movements-people's movements, NGOs, indigenous peoples movements and women's movements from more than 20 countries-met in Manila for the World Forum for Democratization in Asia, hosted by the Davao-based Initiatives for International Dialogue. The purpose was to address the issue of "democracy deficit" in various Asian countries, and especially to extend solidarity to the people in repressed "closed societies" like Burma. It was a remarkable expression of "globalization from below," citizens of the world fortifying each other, learning and exercising true international solidarity. Experiences of social movements in the region were shared with each other, including positive and neg-

Social movements come from various degrees of experience and history in their struggles for the democratization of their societies. Some societies, as in Burma, do not allow any kind of space for political and civil liberties; no free press and no independent civil power are tolerated. In the end, we know that ultimately, the subjective forces of the Burmese people-through their consciousness, awareness and organization-will overcome the objective factors (superior force, weapons and technology) of the state apparatus of the repressive Burmese military rulers.

Social movements and states that claim to be democratic must close ranks and extend their full solidarity with the people of Burma who are struggling to be free. Burmese state repression Buddhists in key cities like Rangoon, Mandalay, that has been organized and institutionalized

with torture, imprisonment, censorship, disappearances and summary executions of dissenters is not unfamiliar to us in the Philippines.

But democracy, as we have learned in the Philippines, is not ultimately about seizing or controlling state power away from repressive regimes. We have seen how our own "democracy" can become so fragile even with the trappings of elections and political parties.

Democracy is about an awakened citizenry at their critical mass, organized and unorganized, that can make their government accountable, transparent and responsive to their needs and aspirations, where the fundamental rights of the people are respected, even for those who are a minority. It is about waking up the consciousness of the people, developing their full potentials as human beings, bringing people together in a true spirit of debate, dialogue, consensus and participation to provoke changes in public and state policy. This is the fundamental deficit in Burma and the people there truly need our solidarity to achieve their democratization. The Burmese military junta's principal backers-China and India, who are its trading partners-and investors must be made to account by the Asean members and international community for the actions of this despotic regime that they supply directly and indirectly with the logistics of repression.

It would be more tragic if at the time of their need, there was a deficit in our solidarity for the resistance and courage of the people of Burma who are, once again, bravely standing up to their despotic military oppressors.

Roland G. Simbulan is full professor in Development Studies and Public Management at the University of the Philippines. He is a former vice chancellor and faculty regent of UP and is currently a senior fellow of the Center for Peoples' Empowerment in Governance (CENPEG).

# Should thuggery trump secrecy?

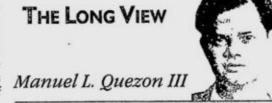
WHEN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IS SUMmoned to listen to the Queen's version of the State of the Nation Address, the doors are symbolically slammed in the face of the official tasked with making the summons. He has to tap the doors three times with his staff, is asked who he is, identifies himself, and only then are the doors opened and the MPs file out to go to the House of Lords to listen to the sovereign.

This curious tradition was born of a historic event: on Jan. 4, 1642, King Charles I, having heard that Parliament intended to impeach his queen, entered the House of Commons with his armed guards. He wanted to arrest five MPs as the ringleaders in the attempt to impeach the Queen for treason. The King was reduced to mumbling, "I see the birds have flown."

By affinity, our Congress is an heir to the experiences of older legislatures, and the story of Charles I has come to represent an ever-present threat that executive departments pose to legislative departments the world over. Both the House and Senate have a decorative wooden stick, called the Mace, which is prominently displayed beside the rostrum whenever each chamber is in session. Its origins lie in the medieval weapon of the same name, and represents the exclusive authority of each chamber to secure and police their own members and their respective premises. Countries that govern themselves according to the principle of the separation of powers, have always been fiercely opposed to intrusion by the executive into the workings of the legislature.

Yesterday, this paper headlined an account that just as Romulo Neri was finally going to reveal, in secret session, what he wasn't prepared to say in public, Sen. Joker Arroyo intervened, and made a motion that essentially provided an opening for Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya to enter the picture. At which point, Neri appeared so ill, senators say they decided to call the whole thing off.

Senator Arroyo has angrily denied that he made a motion to bring in Andaya at the point that Neri seemed poised to spill the beans. It seems unlikely to me that Arroyo would do some-



thing so crude. When the committees decided to hold an executive session, only the senators, Neri, his lawyer (most definitely not Andaya), and a Blue Ribbon committee lawyer were authorized to attend. In other words Arroyo and the whole world knew that Neri was entitled, and expected, to bring his counsel with him in to the executive session—and that a Cabinet member is prohibited from acting as someone's counsel.

So then how could it be, that the INQUIRER'S sources all seem to agree that an executive session limited to a few people, meant to afford Neri the chance to speak freely without fear of intimidation, ended up with a Cabinet member other than Neri not only being there, but who is then alleged to have literally nudged Nerl, who then clammed up?

The House and Senate jealously guard access to their session floors, but make exceptions, out of courtesy, to former colleagues, such as Cabinet members who were once congressmen or senators. Hospitality takes many forms and I can only speculate that if Andaya was there, it could have been possible that Andaya was allowed to be present in the executive session, not at some point, but from the very start-as a courtesy. Extended by whom? Only a senator would be so bold. And yet surely, other senators would have objected on the basis of the attendance being highly restricted. The executive session was meant to help Neri, who'd endured hours of tremendous pressure.

Recall that around 12:48 p.m. that day, there was news that Neri was whisked away to the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, on the 4th floor of the Senate. If my recollection of the brief mention of this development is correct, Neri seemed surprised

by this as his actual intention had either been to answer the call of nature or have lunch. Reasonable minds must consider that the executive session became the last, but wasn't the first, attempt by the Palace to browbeat Neri into keeping silent. The question now becomes, were senators complicit in the intimidation of a witness by omission or com-

What was bad enough was the possibility of having Andaya in the room, whether from the start or by barging in. If true, it would have served no other purpose either way but to intimidate Neri. Think of it. I don't even mean to suggest that at any point, Andaya positioned himself across from, or beside, Neri, or even grabbed him by the shoulders or shook him, or poked him, or shouted instructions at him to cease and desist from saying anything: this is the Senate, not the mafia series the Sopranos.

Such scenarios are impossible because surely the senators present, regardless of party affiliations, would have demanded Andaya's immediate expulsion from the premises. Unless we speculate further that the Senate premises actually had members of the PSG, fully armed, lurking in the vicinity. But no self-respecting legislature anywhere in the world would keep silent, vow or no vow, if armed guards other than those under its own sergeant-at-arms, presented a menace to a witness.

No, Andaya's presence alone in the executive session, even if he did nothing at all and didn't nudge Neri, defeated the whole purpose of the executive session. If a Cabinet member, unauthorized to attend, without legal personality to serve as counsel, was either in the meeting from the start or barged in sometime in the middle, then surely the veil of secrecy was lifted. In the face of such an invasion, the Senate, surely, cannot maintain the fiction of a vow of secrecy that was broken from the start.

Or, is the Senate the victim of a charade? Are senators being blamed for being gutless in the face of an intrusion that never took place, and made the bad guys in what might actually be a Punch and Judy act between Neri and Andaya?

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



#### PINION CONTRACTOR DESCRIPTION OF A SCALE SIZE OF PROPERTY CONTRACTOR

I AM AN ELECTRONIC AND INternet freak. I never leave home without my laptop-my American Express card, maybe, but not my laptop. Even when I fly to the Philippines, which I do every other month, I have my computer with me, "connected to my hip." So, I am 100 percent in favor of having a national broadband network for the Philippines-but not at that padded, super-inflated cost of \$329 million (when other quality bids are lower) and, more importantly, not before we take care of our poor, homeless and hungry fellow Filipinos who are languish-

ing in total poverty. How insensitive, uncaring and unfocused our President and our legislators would be to even plan to give our people tuxedos when more than 70 percent of them are clothed mostly in rags. Or, to offer the homeless and the hungry champagne, strawberries and caviar instead of a home, food and education for their children. These are the areas where our national leaders must focus on and spend our tax pesos in, to alleviate this deadly cancer of poverty cutting-edge

among our people. Couples for Christ, among others, and Tony Meloto's Gawad Kalinga are addressing this fundamental issue. Why can't our government concentrate on and address this dilemma more effectively? I know for a fact that the Philippines can eradicate poverty if it wills it. It is not an impossible task. One does not have to be an Einstein or a rocket scientist to do

Our legislators and other government thieves can steal less from the national coffers, for a start, so that the "remaining (unstolen) balance" can be earmarked to help our poor, homeless, hungry, hopeless and destitute kababayan. The billions and billions being plundered by corrupt officials can make a big dent on-if not eliminate-poverty, and make it a thing of the past for millions of Filipinos.

And only when those thieves start doing that noble humanitarian task can they legitimately and conscionably consider providing the Filipinos with 21st-century, communications

# We Filipinos are a confused people

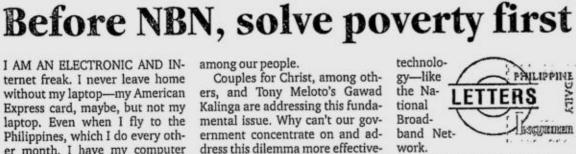
TRULY, THE FILIPINOS ARE A confused people. We have an electoral process that we don't believe in. Instead we believe in rumors and hearsay to topple a duly elected official. We have a justice system but we believe in poll surveys of guilt or innocence. We are Asia's biggest Catholic nation whose bishops and priests promote love and brotherhood, but we thrive on slander, graft and killings.

The widow of an alleged plunderer still flaunts her wealth, while a convicted plunderer taunts the government and insults the justice system. I see endless contradictions. Even our economic policies and agenda are dictated by decisions of non-economic experts like the Supreme Court, media and public opinion. Because of these I am severely frustrated.

I am an engineer and have been dreaming to see our country move forward through genuine industrialization, which is the only way to have a stable economic foundation so that our jobless graduates can get decent jobs. I have been dreaming of the restoration of our dignity as a nation-not as a nation working as slaves and being raped in foreign lands.

I am still hoping that the sacrifices of all the decent and morally upright Filipinos will ultimately

-ROMULO E. VITOR, re\_vitor@yahoo.com



I feel very strongly that our government would first satisfy our corrupt National Broad-Bandits Network (NBBN)-aka National Broad-Kurakot Network (NBKN)-before attending to the

suffering people of the Philippines. As I said earlier, I am very much addicted to this great technology and would love to have it in our country. But first things first. Let's set our priorities in order. Let's first eradicate two existing deplorable and embarrassing conditions in our country: the NBBN-NBKN corruption and poverty. Succeeding in these endeavors will finally allow us to regain our honor and dignity as a people and as a nation in the eyes of the

God bless the Filipinos. God bless the Philippines.

-PHILIP S. CHUA, M.D., scalpelpen@gmail.com

#### **US-based** group also pitched in

THIS REFERS TO MY COMMENtary on recent donations to the University of the Philippines from alumni in the United States. ("\$1.7 M for UP," INQUIRER, 9/26/07) My attention has been called to the following item as an omission.

The donations also included one in the amount of \$10,000 from the UP Centennial Movement in America, which is based in Chicago and headed by alumna Jo Abaya Wee-Sit, a former president of the UP Alumni Association

-BELINDA A. AQUINO, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96822



AFTER MORE than a month, the search for justice for Cris Anthony Mendez continues.

**FILE PHOTO** 

#### Saguisag on Sigma Rogues and the new writ of amparo

TO NEARLY UNIVERSAL .ACclaim, Chief Justice Reynato Puno has taken aggressive steps to stop extrajudicial killings suspected to have been committed by law enforcers from the Philippine Military Academy and Philippine National Police Academy.

But justice should begin at

home. Whether it is amparo, habeas or whatever, we should use every means to stop the extrajudicial killings in Diliman, in an institution we subsidize, in a university which has produced the Chief Justice and a vast majority of the membership of the Supreme

It has been said that the day we silent when it is time to speak.

see the truth and cease to speak is the day we begin to die.

Surprisingly, Manong Johnny Ponce Enrile has condemned the Sigma Rogues, the barbarians suspected to be behind the death of Cris Anthony Mendez. There is hope for everyone. But Sigma Rogues Edgardo Angara and Franklin Drilon have not been heard from; so is the Commission on Human Rights, which is headed by another UP alum. But too many

Frank Chavez, where are you? Indeed, some of the cruelest are told in silence. Two mistakes are inevitable, speaking when it is time to be silent and keeping

people have died over the decades.

These are clichés that have the powerful ring of truth.

UP must not stand for Uncivilized People. If the system cannot solve the killing of Mendez, the Supreme Court may have to stop all this talk about issuing rules on extrajudicial killings elsewhere, but not in Diliman.

Do we need a Habeas Sigma?

It seems the Sigma Rogues concerned have become desaparecidos. Maybe they are in Sicily, where criminal syndicates have their R&R, waiting for things to cool off, given our people's notorious lack of moral stamina.

-RAV SAGUISAG, 4045 Bigasan St., Palanan, Makati City

#### Begging Erap to accept pardon: What have we come to?

THE EDITORIAL "PARDON FOR plunderer?" said it all. (INQUIRER, 9/25/07) What has happened to to our leaders' way of thinking? Here is a convicted felon citing his

offer him pardon in the first Philippines. place? Such an offer is appalling.

It seems like we even have to beg

own terms for accepting a pardon. him and give back his loot just so Why would the administration he would accept it. Only in the

> -TONY MUÑOZ, nongmz@yahoo.com

# HEW LOWER Year-round Fares Book early and pay less.

Cebu to Taipei Davao to Taipei (via Cebu)

Sale Period: September 28 to October 4, 2007 Travel Period: December 14, 2007 to March 31, 2008 Promo is non-refundable

INTERNATIONAL

Guangzhou • Taipei • Xiamen

Bangkok • Hong Kong • Kuala Lumpur • Macau

Jakarta • Shanghai • Singapore\*

All direct flights to/ from Manlla \* Also with direct flights to/ from Cebu

Cebu to Bacolod • Iloilo

Manila to Laoag • Legaspi

Cebu to Cagayan de Oro • Clark • Davao • Kalibo

Puerto Princesa • Zamboanga

Davao to Zamboanga

Manila to Bacolod • Cebu • Dumaguete • Iloilo Kalibo • Puerto Princesa • Roxas • Tacloban • Tagbilaran

Manila to Butuan • Cagayan de Oro • Cotabato Davao • Dipolog • General Santos • Zamboanga

#### CEBU PACIFIC IS THE NO. 1 DOMESTIC AIRLINE!

MOST DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS · MOST DOMESTIC FLIGHTS · MOST DOMESTIC ROUTES · NEWEST PLANES MOST DOMESTIC PASSENGERS FLOWN · LOWEST YEAR-ROUND FARES

Domestic fuel and insurance surcharges range from PHP 700 to PHP 1,150. International fuel and insurance surcharges range from USD 20 to USD 44. CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM Call (02) 70-20-888 or visit the travel agent nearest you



### Pangilinan's questions misconstrued by reader

I WRITE IN RESPONSE TO STEVE Y. VESPEra's Letter to the Editor. (INQUIRER, 9/25/07) Vespera implied that Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan was trying to clear President Macapagal-Arroyo of any involvement in the National Broadband Network scandal through the testimony of Joey de Venecia.

Vespera wrote, "he [Senator Pangilinan] wrapped it up with an assurance from the witness [De Venecia] that the latter had no personal knowledge of the President's complicity in the skullduggery.

Having watched the Senate hearings myself, believe Vespera misconstrued Pangilinan's line of questioning. If one would revisit the records of the hearing, it was De Venecia and not Pangilinan who volunteered that President

Arroyo was not involved in the shady deal.

Contrary to Vespera's observation, it was Pangilinan who challenged De Venecia by asking, "But you don't know this for a fact?"

The senator solicited an admission from De Venecia that he did not have personal knowledge of the President's daily dealings with the First Gentleman and Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, and that therefore he was in no position to claim, as he did, that President Arroyo was not involved in the ZTE deal.

We appreciate very much Vespera's concern and vigilance on the ZTE deal, and I hope that

this response sets the record straight. -RENAN B. DALISAY, chief of staff, Office of Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, kiko.pangilinan@gmail.com

#### Workers' group condemns Burma's military junta

THE FILIPINO WORKING CLASS JOINS THE clamor around the world condemning the violent suppression by the military junta of the protest movement in Burma (Myanmar). We add the voice of the workers in the call for democratization in Burma, freedom for political prisoners and an end to the military rule.

We express our solidarity for the people of Burma, especially our Burmese brother- and sister-workers. Under the heel of the military junta, the working class of Burma suffers as much as, or even more than, other sectors and classes of Burmese society. The Burmese military dictatorship may be a throwback to the Dark Ages; but under its iron-fisted rule, the post-modern paradigm of globalization is being forced down the throats of Burmese workers. Multinational corporations are extracting super profits from the blood and sweat of Burmese workers who are denied the most elementary labor rights by the brutal dictator-

The Filipino workers sympathize with the situation of their Burmese brothers and sisters, for we suffered the very same exploitation and abuse under the Marcos dictatorship. In fact, the burgeoning protest movement in Burma

against price increases recalls to mind the welgang bayan of the '80s and '90s against the economic hardship during and after the Marcos dictatorship.

The Burmese military dictatorship hopes to nip in the bud the protest movement against the economic crisis and scuttle its maturation into a political movement for democracy in their country. But the tables may yet be turned and the bloody repression may still water the seeds of a new uprising against military rule.

Despite the forced isolation of Burma under the dictatorship, international solidarity has a significant role to play in sustaining and strengthening the protest movement in Burma. Thus, the Partido ng Manggagawa will educate and mobilize the Filipino workers as vanguard-fighters for democracy to stand as one body and speak with one voice in support of the Burmese people and workers in their struggle for political freedom and social emancipation.

-JUDY ANN MIRANDA, secretary general, Partido ng Manggagawa, 18 Alley 2, Project 6, Quezon City

#### The 'eightysomethings' must tell their stories

MAY I THANK THE INQUIRER FOR PUBLISHing a feature article about Godofedo Peteza Sr., the "Dear Editor" writer. (INQUIRER, 9/4/07) All "eightysomethings" should be able to read the article. I will have it photocopied and I will send copies to my classmates (Araullo High School Class '39 and Philippine Normal School Class '41).

Every time we have reunions, I always ask them to write about their beefs and complaints instead of just talking and talking about them. It is us, I remind them, that must write about what we really experienced during our youth, how we had to sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" before the Pambansang Awit, how we were punished and made to pay a fine of five centavos every time we were caught speaking Tagalog, how we enjoyed the "haranas" from our gangly swains, how we enjoyed the silent movies with our heroes Tom Mix and Ramon Navarro.

We, still lucid at this venerable age, should be able to write like Peteza. We fled to the hills

to escape the Japanese, danced with the GIs during Liberation, rejoiced with our countrymen when we were "granted" (not declared?) independence. We "suffered" martial law (we were part of the generation of 40 million cowards and one SOB), we were able to raise families, educate our children. Some of us allowed them, with heavy hearts, to seek a brighter future in foreign lands.

We should also now be persevering to keep our good old family values and inculcate them in our descendants. Crass materialism, relativism and decadent instant gratification have taken over. We should have many interesting stories to tell.

We, the eightysomethings-and we are still many-must sit down and write now, before it is too late. Before we get the dreaded Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, God forbid.

—CONSUELO D. SISON, Rotary Club of Loyola Heights, 10 Alpha Rd., Alpha Village, Capitol Hills Drive, Quezon City

### Bureau takes in P1B

THE BUREAU OF Immigration has collected a "record high" P1.116 billion in fees for the year through August.

"This is only the second time in our history our income surpassed one billion pesos with months [left] before the end of the year," Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said in a statement.

Libanan said the eight-month take was P21 million, or 23 percent, higher than the BI target of P907.7 million for the period.

"We are seeing the continuing evolution of our bureau into one of the government's prime revenue generating agencies," Libanan said.

He said the sharp rise in income was a result of the steady influx of foreign visitors both for business and pleasure.

"Foreigners are entering our country in droves. This only means our reputation as a favored tourist and investment destination is steadily improving," Libanan said.

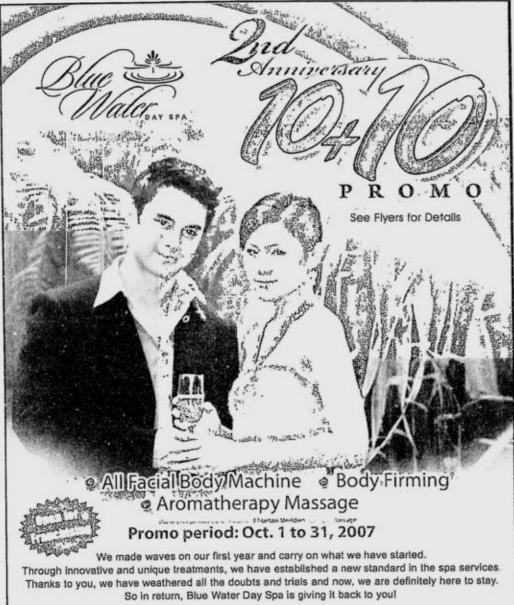
He said there had also been a "dramatic upsurge" in the number of foreigners applying for work and investment visas.

BI finance chief Elvira Presado said the bureau's income was highest in January when it totaled P176.4 million, followed by July when it was P163.5 million. timizing lax Savings for

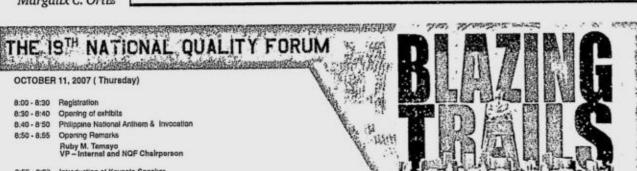
A Tax Planning Program with Comprehensive Updates, Cases and Regulations

26 OCTOBER 2007 \* PENINSULA MANILA, MAKATI CITY, PHILIPPINES \* 8:30AM to 5:00PM

For inquiries, call CENTER FOR GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES Tel. Nos: 842-71-48 or 59 Email: henry@cgbp.org Website: www.cgbp.org



To celebrate this special occasion, we have designed special promo packages where you can be frilled



IT'S NOT A MATTER OF SIZE

OCTOBER 12, 2007 ( Friday)

6:40 - 9:10 Quality is in The EYE

Anna Karina P. Gerochi Managing Director Asian Eye Institute

Simplicio P. Umali Jr. President & General Monager Gardenia Bakerica Phil, Inc. 9:50 - 10:30 Setting the Pace in Health Care Systems

9:10 - 9:50 Breads that Beat the Competition

Carla N. Diwa Systems Monager The Medical City

10:50 -11:40 Competing With the Glants

11:40 -12:30 Enhancing Worker Marketabilit

2:10 - 2:50 Packaging Makes Perfect

3:45 - 4:25 An Entrepreneur's Story

4:25 - 5:05 Minding Your Own Business

Angelica C. Fraginal PSQ Precident

Carmelita R. Reyos Proprietress-Manager Rejano's Marinduque Dell 2005 Outstanding SME

Brand Monager Mama Sita's Holding Co. Inc.

Rhoda C. Callwara
President & General Manager
Executive General Manager
Executive Generals Manager

1:30 - 2:10 improving Packaging Technology for Philippine Food Products in the Regions

Dalay E. Tamafrenca Program Leader Packaging R&D Center Department of Science & Technology

Ng Khai Development Corporation Small Business Entrepreneur of the year 2004

Francisco J. Colayco Chairman Colayco Foundation for Education, Inc

8:00 - 8:30 Registration

8:30 - 8:40 Invocation

10:30 -10:50 Break

12:30- 1:30 Lunch Break

3:30 - 3:45 Break

8:00 - 8:30 Registration 8:30 - 8:40 Opening of exhibits

OCTOBER 11, 2007 (Thursday)

Margaux C. Ortiz

8:40 - 8:50 Philippine National Anthem & Invoc

Ruby M. Tamayo VP - Internal and NQF Chairperson 8:55 - 9:00 Introduction of Keynote Speaker

9:00 - 9:30 Keynole Address: Spreading the Value of Entrepreneurship

Jase Ma. A. Concepcion III RFM Corporation Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship

9:30 - 9:50 Juran Awrieds Ceremony

9:50 -10:30 Blue Ocean Strategy: Creating New Market Space, Cruating New Profit Sources, Breaking Out of Parity

Joeinh Go Chairman and Chief Marketing Strategist Manamith and Fielders, Inc.

10:30 -10:50 Brenk

10:50 -11:40 LEAN and Smart: Applications for Big & Small Companies

11:40 -12:30 Creativity and Innovation in Quality Management: An Insight Raju Mandhyan

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch Break

1:30 - 2:10 Quality From A Conference Center Perspective Agnes L. Fidelino AVP & Managing Director MMLDC

2:10 - 2:50 Information Systems to Drive Business

2:50 - 3:30 Trailblezing from the Heart and Soul: Inspiring Tomorrow Today 2:50 - 3:30 Institling Quality Habits; An SME Perspective

Imelda Roberto Prosident & CEO First Magnitude International 2005 Bills Island Medal of Honor Recipient 3:30 - 3:45 Break

3:45 - 4:25 Strategies to Keeping Employees Engaged Albert G. Mateo

4:25- 5:05 Unbinding Organizational Boundaries: Vertical Integration and Outsourcing Mr. Ronald Luis S. Goseco

Head, Logistice & Administration Support Globe Telecom 5:05 - 5:20 Integration

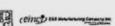




5:05 - 5:30 Closing Message







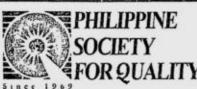
PAINFULLY DRY, HARD and STATIONARY

LOOSEN UP WITH



Senokot Laxatives are effective in relieving occasional, functional constipation, and the constipation associated with childbirth, old age and inactivity, or the use of narcotic analgesics. They are convenient, welltolerated, effective, and gentle with over 50 years of clinical experience.





Contact Person: Me. Elizabeth A. Auring

#8995925 & 8966246 e-mail add: peq@pidtdsl.net















ORGANIS & MATURAL PRODUCTS



### BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

20th ANNIVERSARY, OCTOBER 1, 2007





Local Government Finance (BLGF) of the Department of Finance on your 20th

Two decades of extensive efforts in providing technical assistance to raise funds for local government units (LGUs) and improve their financial management systems certainly mmendation and support.

Development," does not only describe the hard work and dedication of the Bureau but also sets the tone for the immediate future. I recognize the vital role played by the BLGF in generating revenues, accessing funds for local development projects, and enhancing financial management

indeed, the BLGF has gone all the way to assist the local ment sector to be where it is today

Allow me, therefore, to take cognizance of your continuing efforts towards countryside development. Meeting the challenges will not be easy but with vigilance and commitment, I am confident that you can surpass what you

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHATI

Gloria arrayo



Warmest greetings to the good men and women of the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) as you commemorate your 20th Anniversary on 01 October 2007.

The theme of this year's celebration, "BLGF AT THE FOREFRONT OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," encapsulates the vital

participation of your Bureau vis-a-vis the financial reforms and improvements undertaken by the local government units (LGUs)

I commend the BLGF for opening avenues for support that enhance the confidence of the LGUs to use the full extent of their taxing and ancillary revenue generating powers provided for in the Local Government Code of 1991. In collaboration with the BLGF, LGUs foster alliances and partnerships with various national government agencies as well as the private sector, in generating funds and accessing financing schemes for development projects. The two decades of advocacy and essential assistance to LGUs are now reaping results

Best wishes to the BLGF as you continue your pivotal role in the empowerment of the LGUs. The national government acknowledges the enormous contributions of efficient, effective, and progressive LGUs towards a sustainable robust economy and long-lasting peace in the country

Mabuhay ang BLGFI

Hon. MARGARITO "GARY" B. TEVES



In recent years, decentralization has already shifted to ti challenge of financing. It has become an issue of sustainability which simply means optimizing the provisions of the Local Government Code in bringing the revenues and translating them into projects relating to the needs of the constituency. We, in the BLGF, at the forefront of all these financial issues, have crafted strategic approaches centere on partnerships and alliances to shape the local financial environment. If has so far shown good results - a fast growing sector with high revenue growth, increasing access to funds

and local governments to further strengthen national growth. Those implemented include the complementation of databases for tax collection, making available to the creditors and the general public the financial performance of each and every LGU, and encouraging the financial sector to continue its support to the development needs of the LGUs, particularly those

In the next few years, the BLGF will move beyond the traditional resources of real property and business taxes. There will be efforts to promote the more potent use of borrowings and private sector financing. After the establishment of market segmentation surveys, the LGUs may begin to convert their facilities to economic enterprises and attract private investors to perform key responsibilities. This will be the future of the sustaining LGU economic

Our anniversary is a temporary halt to reflect on what we have accomplished. It is also the beginning of a more vigorous effort in the

Congratulations to all of us on our 20th year anniversary!

MA. PRESENTACION R. MONTESA



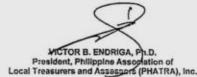
BLGF AND PHALTRA: DYNAMIC PARTNERS IN LOCAL FINANCE

Bureau of Local Government Finance
(BLGF) with passion and commend the
agency for its significant role in
enlarging local government's fiscal capacity and for
keeping the local economy on sustainable levels with its
watchful eyes.

No doubt, the partnership between PHALTRA and BLGF continues to play a critical role in promoting efficient management of local financial resources to serve the

indeed, the rate of growth and the quality of growth on the grassroot level had improved general living standards and ensured the nation's mass-based social objectives, for which reason we are proud to be associated with this

Congratulations and more power to BLGFI God bless.



Vision

BLGF is THE focal

agency and an authority in local finance.

Mission

BLGF is the catalyst

for local government

units to achieve

sustainable and

effective financial management, thus

making them contributors to

actional development.

Australian Covernment

BLGF Supports the Ton-Point Agenda of PGMA!

BEAT THE ODDS - this

- Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroya

ogenda for the next six

Education for all

Automated elections

- Transport and digital

connect the country

- Terminate the MILF

barangays

- Heal the wounds of EDSA

- Electricity and water for all

Opportunities for 10 million

Decongest Metro Manila

#### BLGF IN THE PAST ...

The past years saw the evolution of the Bureau of Local Government Finance from a merci organizational unit of the Provincial and Municipal Finance Division of the Department of Finance to its present status as a Bureau. The former unit was restructured into Local Government Finance Division consisting of 35 personnel. On September 24, 1972, PD No. 1 was enacted to effect reorganization and administrative reforms in the government machinery. Thru this Decree, the Local Government Finance Division evolved into Local Government Finance Server.

On July 17, 1974, PD No 509 was issued creating a Local Tax Ordinance Advisory Board to become an integral part of the Local Government Finance Service. This Decree was enacted in response to the urgent need to create a body which would assist the Secretary of Finance in the review of the new and revised ordinances: to handle or decide cases of protests or complaints of taxpayers, requests for advice, proper interpretation of cartain

On December 21, 1977, PD 1265 was enacted to provide for the establishment of the Regional Offices of the Department of Finance and to further-restructure the Local Government Finance Service into the Office of Local Government Finance This Decree was aimed at providing an effective mechanism for the implementation, coordination and ring of national and local fiscal plans and programs at the local levels

The Issuance of Executive Order No. 766 on January 7, 1982 effected the turn-over of supervision of the Real Property Tax Administration (RPTA) Program from the then, Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) to the Ministry of

The urgent demands of national economic recovery after the 1986 February revolution necessitated changes in the organizational and functional structure of the bureaucracy Hence, on January 30, 1987, by virtue of Sec. 43 of Executive Order No. 127, the Department of Finance was reorganized, and the Office of Local Government Finance was elevated to a Bureau now called the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF):

#### **DEVELOPMENTAL MANDATES**

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) is the aim of the Department of Finance (DOF) directly responsible for the fiscal and financial affairs of local government units in the Philippines E Under the decentralized regime provided for under the 1992 Local Government Code (LGC), BLGF provides a catalytic role in effective and sustainable management of fiscal and financial resources of local government units (LGUs), transforming them into key contributors to national development. BLGF's local government unit (LGU)-related mandates coyer the following areas

Revenue administration and fund management: Assist in the formulation and implementation of policies on local government revenue administration and fund management (to include the efficient use and management of local government resources

Treasury and assessment operations: Exercise administrative and technical supervision rdination over the treasury and assessment operations of LGUs;

Resource management, collection enforcement and credit utilization: Develop and promote plans and programs for the improvement of resource management systems,

Sources of financing: Provide technical assistance to LGUs on local taxation, real properly assessment and taxation, operation of economic enterprises, credit financing, municipal bond issues, alternative and non-traditional sources of financing, and related finance matters, and issue guidelines as may be necessary for this purpose,

LGU financial position: Determine the sufficiency and level of income for the creation, conversion or abolition of LGUs, based on acceptable standards set by law to provide for all essential government facilities and services and special functions commensurate to the size of the population, update the income classification of LGUs to reflect the changes in their financial position resulting from Increased revenues; to provide accurate, timely, uniform and comparable local government financial information to the financial market as may be requested, and assist in the consolidation of national accounts and economic indicators by providing relevant financial information in the LGU sector.

In fulfilling these vital roles the basic approach of BLGF is slowly shifting from regulatory to facilitation. To effectively act as financial advisers to LGUs, BLGF is embarking on a reengineering and retooling of its organizational structure and

# "BLGF AT THE FOREFRONT OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DI

amudst complex challenges, the Bureau has sustained its ability as an arm of the Department of Finance to transform LGUs into financially sustainable institutions making them big contributors to national development. The BLGF has made its mark and continues to influence a higher level of efficiency in local financial governance, thru, creative policies and programs to better address the demands of the LGUs.

New LGU Financial Performance Mondonno System established.

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) established and continuously maintains LGU Financial Monitoring System to sustain an accurate and timely LGU database that could be readily accessed by stakeholders. The system involves the monitoring of fourteen (14) financial indicators that reflects how well the LGU funds have been utilized and the Statement of Income and Expenditure Reporting System-which is a tool to gather baseline data for simulation of basic and vital information on the fiscal performance of the LGUs.

and Revenue Generation Program expanded...

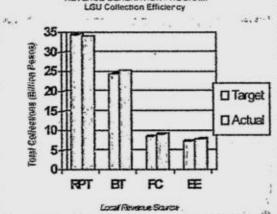
Alongside the LGU Financial Performance Monitoring, the BLGF initiated the Revenue Generation Program aimed at improving LGUs' performance in generating locally sourced income. The program initially revolved around the collection of real property taxes which is the LGUs' major and most stable income. The effectiveness of the program dictated its expansion to include collections on business taxes, fees and charges and receipts from the operation of economic enterprises.

Various factors contribute to the LGUs attainment of their respective targets LGU revenue bases are enhanced through programs and projects such as the Real Property Tax Administration (RPTA) Project, conduct of General Revision of Real Property Values/Assessments. enforcement of administrative remedies in the collection of laxes, installation of computerized systems of collection in LGUs and updating

translating into better financial performance

The overall fiscal performance of the LGUs over the past three years exhibited surpluses at an average of P25 03 Billion indicating a positive entry into the consolidated public sector deficit. In 2006, total income reached P224.13 billion as against expenditure of P193.78 billion. The high surpluses is a result of improved collection efficiency in all local

REVENUE GENERATION PROGRAM



Betler Credit Monitoring of LGUs underway ...

BLGF undertakes subsidiary activities in aid of LGU operations through the continued monitoring of LGU credit. An integrated LGU credit database to monitor existing loans, bond floats and other forms of credit is currently. Development Forum (PDF), BLGF initiated strategies for change to ensure the continued monitor existing loans. developed. The database provides an input to loans and credit availment of LGUs and serves as a cross-reference among potential creditors in setting up appropriate financing windows to LGUs. It also serves as the baseline input for computing LGU debt service and borrowing capacities

BLGF addressed the information gap obtaining in LGUs on other revenue generating aspects like bond flotation, build-operate-transfer and variants such as public-private partnerships. Comprehensive training programs covering modules on these non-traditional sources of financing projects were implemented nationwide. The LGUs were encouraged to study the mechanics on the making of municipal bonds and build-operate-transfer schemes to make them more adept in such engagements. No

ource Mobilization through the LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND

BLGF assists the Municipal Development Fund Office (MDFO) of DDF in promoting the World Bank-assisted LOGOFIND Project, a loan window for LGU infrastructure and technical assistance. The resource mobilization component of Irits project aims to address the enormous demand for LGUs to provide financing for local development projects. BLGF conceptualized an enhanced program in promoting vacous options by which the LGUs could avail of project funds.

Under this component, BLGF is expected to continue undertaking LGU interventions through the implementation of the Real Property Tax Administration (RPTA) Project and the Business Tax Enhancement Project (BTEP) Said projects respectively seek to expand the tax bases on business and real property through an inventory of existing businesses or real property units. LGU training programs were likewise packaged under this component to capacitate LGUs with various strategic revenue enhancement measures

and improving property appraisal commenced under LAMP2

ine BLGF and the National Tax Research Center are tasked to jointly implement the Property Valuation and Land Taxation component of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Land Administration and Management (LAMP2) Project an inter-agency project led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, funded by the World Bank with technical assistance from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The valuation component is aimed at improving the quality of government and private sector property appraisal performance through the establishment of a single valuation base and the separation of the valuation and assessment functions from toxistiting and polytical influence. The single valuation will provide a sound basis for the assessment of real property, taxes, widening the taxation base and assisting in the improvement and enhancement of tax coffection.

as more studies under Asian Development Bank (ADB) Technical Assistance 4556 to improve systems and operations of LGUs

The ADB TA 4556 project aims to help LGUs improve their financial resource mobilization, increase local revenue and expand access to the credit market. The TA has seven components. Legal and Analytical issues, Studies Towards Improving BLGF Systems and Databases, Studies Towards Improving LGU Operations, Studies Towards Emancing LGU Creditworthiness, Studies towards Strengthening MDFO. Studies Towards Improving Performance Measurement and Studies Towards. Towards Improving Performance Measurement and Studies Towards Professionalizing LGU Financial Managers The ADB TA 4556 project is also committed to develop databases on LGU Financial Service Providers, LGU Debt Monitoring and LGU Credit Information for various local government finance stakeholders

and capacitating BLGF Officials and Employees for Better Public Service thru PAHROF interventions ...

Development Forum (PDF), BLGF initiated strategies for change to ensure adeptationally to current trends and this include a partnership/engagement with the Philippings-Australia Human Resource Development (PAHROF) for the opportunity to undertake HRD training programs that will further develop and enhance the capabilities of BLGF staff, and make sure that the Bureau efficiently delivers its services.

### BLGF'S ROLE IN PROMOTING FISCAL EFFICIENCY

There are three dimensions of fiscal efficiency as fat as LGUs are concerned. First, there is the so-called "correspondence aspect" where local taxes should be connected with the services that LGU taxpayers receive. Second, the system of grants and transfers from the central government should provide adequate finance to LGUs without overly distorting LGU revenue mobilization preference, e.g., using the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) as a substitute for politically costly local tax measures. And third, the system of finance of LGUs, particularly, borrowings, should not threaten key macro-economic targets as budgetary deficits, inflation, and

Promoting Local Tax Correspondence

BLGF has consistently promoted the use of local taxes, fees and user charges that correspond well to the economic activity supported by LGU services. The efforts of the BLGF alongside the 1992 LGC have resulted in substantial improvements in the correspondence between local revenue mobilization vis a vis economic

Figure 1 shows the relationship between LGU revenue from taxation and GDP from 1967 to 2005. Note that the organization of the BLGF in 1987 and the enactment of the 1992 LGC are key milestones. Prior to these two events, the growth path of LGU revenue from taxation relative to economic activity as measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was relatively path. After these two events, the growth path of LGU revenue from taxation sharply became steep. A flattening was noted after the 2004 elections primarily due to the political bickering and the resulting instability.

Multiple regression analysis has indicated that the operation of BLGF has added 0.53% to the annual percentage growth rate of LGU revenue from faxaling white the implementation of the 1992 LGC has added 1.42% annually.

The combined effects of the two — operation of BLGF and the 1991 LGC — have continued approximately Php 10.2 billion annually to LGU revenue from taxation Avoiding the Distorting Effects of the IRA and Other National Government Transfers

BLGF is attacking the observed distortions caused by national government transfers via two complementary strategies. Assisting LGUs on improving local revenue mobilization, particularly, real property taxes (RPT), business taxes (BT), and regulatory fees, user charges, and economic enterprises.

Helping LGUs access the credit market for project financing.

#### Threat Prevention on Macroeconomic Targets

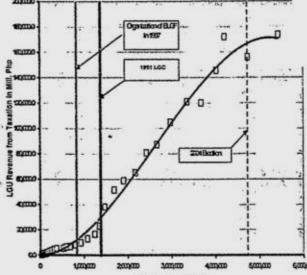
The no-deficit budgetary rule is strictly implemented by BLGF's treasurers.

only promoted judicious borrowings by LGU via the setting of conservative debt service capacities based on the statutory limits applied to Commission on Audit (COA)-audited accounting figures. It has also consistently batted for use of market interest rates for LGU borrowings for revenue-generating or

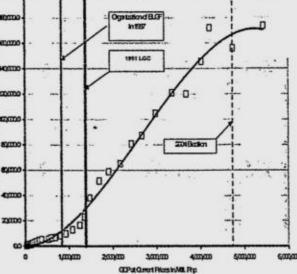
BLGF with technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is improving on its debt certification system via the development of a debt monitoring

Operating using the framework of the 1992 LGC, regression analysis indicates that BLGFs operations has annually contributed about Php 535.1 billion to the country's GDP at current prices based on an estimated Php 10.6 billion annual combined effects of BLGF operation and the 1992 LGC on LGU revenue from taxation.

#### Fig.1 LGU Revenue from Taxation and GDP



Balanced budget



www.blgf.gov.ph





















Greetings From: AND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming Bayan

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF



### BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE 20th ANNIVERSARY, OCTOBER 1, 2007





My warmest congratulations to the Bureau or Local Government Finance (BLGF) of the Department of Finance on your 20th

Two decades of extensive efforts in providing technical assistance to raise funds for local government units (LGUs) and improve their financial management systems certainly mmendation and support.

Development," does not only describe the hard work and dedication of the Bureau but also sets the tone for the immediate future. I recognize the vital role played by the BLGF in generating rovenues, accessing funds for local development projects, and enhancing financial management

ndeed, the BLGF has gone all the way to assist the local government sector to be where it is today.

Allow me, therefore, to take cognizance of your continuing efforts towards countryside development. Meeting the challenges will not be easy but with vigilance and commitment, I am confident that you can surpass what you

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHATI

Her Excelled GLORIA MACAPAGM -ARROYO President of the Republic of the Philippines



men of the Bureau of Local Govern Ince (BLGF) as you commenorate 20th Anniversary on 01 October 2007

The theme of this year's celebration, "BLGF AT THE FOREFRONT OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, encapsulates the vital participation of your Bureau vis-à-vis the financial reforms and improvements undertaken by the local novernment units (LGUs).

I commend the BLGF for opening avenues for support that enhance the confidence of the LGUs to use the full extent of their taxing and ancillary revenue generating powers provided for in the Local Government Code of 1991. In collaboration with the BLGF, LGUs foster alliances and partnerships with various national government agencies as well as the private sector, in generating funds and accessing financing schemes for development projects. The two decades of advocacy and essential assistance to LGUs are now reaping results

Best wishes to the BLGF as you continue your pivotal role in the empowerment of the LGUs. The national government acknowledges the enormous contributions of efficient, effective, and progressive LGUs towards a sustainable robust economy and long-lasting peace in the country

Mabuhay ang BLGFI

Jy, in Hon. MARGARITO "GARY" B. TEVES Secretary of Finance



of the Local Government Code in bringing the revenues and

translating them into projects relating to the needs of the constituency. We, in the BLGF at the forefront of all these financial issues, have crafted strategic approaches centered on partnerships and alliances to shape the local financial environment. It has so far shown good results - a fast growing sector with high revenue growth, increasing access to funds, precogning services and a positively contributing sector to the

expanded socio-economic services and a positively contributing sector to the Consolidated Public Sector Position

The approach adopted is to comprehensively integrate the efforts of national and local governments to further strengthen national growth. Those implemented include the complementation of databases for tax collection. making available to the recitors and the general public the financial performance of each and every LGU, and encouraging the financial sector to continue its support to the development needs of the LGUs, particularly those

In the next few years, the BLGF will move beyond the traditional resources of real property and business taxes. There will be efforts to promote the more potent use of borrowings and private sector financing. After the establishment of market segmentation surveys, the LGUs may begin to convert their facilities to economic enterprises and attract private investors to perform key responsibilities. This will be the future of the mustaining LGU economic

Our anniversary is a temporary stall to reflect on what we have accomplished, it is also the heginning of a more slopeous effort in the





PARTNERS IN LOCAL FINANCE

we colebrate the 20th anniversary of the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) with passion and commend the agency for its significant role in enlarging local government's liscal capacity and for keeping the local economy on sustainable levels with its watchful eyes

No doubt, the partnership between PHALTRA and BLGF continues to play a critical role in promoting efficient management of local financial resources to serve the

Indeed, the rate of growth and the quality of growth on the grassroot level had improved general living standards and ensured the nation's mass-based social objectives, for which reason we are proud to be associated with this

Congratulations and more power to BLGFI God bless

MCTOR B. ENDRIGA, Ph.D. President, Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (PHATRA), Inc.

ogram roject

MME

ment Fu : Office (MDFC) of DOF to

G30FIND Project a loan window for

The resource mobilization projects BLGF conceptualized

innue "Idertaking LGU r. Real Property Tax Inhancement Project

- packaged .

I the ?

...Jrces

istrakan

-aluation inponent vale sector property

nprove the inatical depand access to the Legal and Analytical and Databases Studies

"ewards

the tar bas

un coulbasses

ject .... J Natura

d Tax

AMP: Jinmer.

ality of government an

.. sa mure studies under Asian Developme... Bant 'ADB Assistance 4556 to improve systems and operations of ...

Measurer.

Fig.1 LGU Revenue from Taxation and GDP

neg

1991 LGC

at Mana - s in

arket itudies T

the tours

and capacitating BLGF Officials ar thru PAHRDF interventions .

hty to current trend the Philippines Austri

(PAHRDF)

1E30TO

) (PDF;

The single valuation

"It at real property, taxes, widening the taxal-

ical assista e from

. Study Towards Enhancing LGU and Strengthe g MDFO. Studies Towards

yees for Bette

Studies

-: strategies for change to ensure
-de partnershiplengagement
Resour Development Facility

take HRD to gray programs that will stake HRD to gray programs that will stake have so for a staff and make sure

0

0

nub TA 4550 project is and al Service Providers.

inder the Philippine

#### BLGF IN THE PAST ...

The past years saw the evolution of the Bureau of Local Government Finance from a mere organizational unit of the Provincial and Municipal Finance Division of the Department of Finance to its present status as a Bureau. The former unit was restructured into Local Government Finance Division consisting of 35 personnel. On September 24, 1972. PD No. 1 was enacted to effect reorganization and administrative reforms in the government machinery. Thur this Decree, the Local Government Finance Division evolved into Local Government Finance.

On July 17, 1974, PD No 509 was issued creating a Local Tax Ordinance Advisory Board to become an integral part of the Local Government Finance Service. This Decree was enacted in response to the urgent need to create a body which would assist the Secretary of Finance in the review of the new and revised ordinances: to handle or decide cases of protests or complaints of taxpayers, requests for advice, proper interpretation of certain codal provisions and other related matters.

On December 21, 1977, PD 1265 was enacted to provide for the establishment of the Regional Offices of the Department of Finance and to further restructure the Local Government Finance Service into the Office of Local Government Finance This Decree was aimed at providing an effective mechanism for the implementation, coordination and ing of national and local fiscal plans and programs at the local levels

The issuance of Executive Order No. 768 on January 7. 1982 effected the turn-over consupervision of the Real Property Tax Administration (RPTA) Program from the thon, Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) to the Ministry of

The urgent demands of national economic recovery after the 1986 February revolution necessitated changes in the organizational and functional structure of the bureaucracy Hence, on January 30, 1987, by virtue of Soc 43 of Executive Order No. 127, the Department of Finance was reorganized, and the Office of Local Government Finance was elevated to a Bureau now called the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF).

#### DEVELOPMENTAL MANDATES

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) is the aim of the Department of Finance (DOF) directly responsible for the fiscal and financial affairs of local government units in the Philippines if Under the decentralized regime provided for under the 1992 Local Government Code (LGC), BLGF provides a catalytic role in effective and sustainable management of liscal and financial resources of local government units (LGUs), transforming them into key contributors to national development. BLGF's local government. unit (LGU)-related mandates cover the following areas

Revenue administration and fund management: Assist in the formulation and implementation of policies on local government revenue administration and fund management (to include the efficient use and management of local government resources in an effort to prevent fiscal deficits),

Treasury and assessment operations: Exercise administrative and technical supervision and coordination over the treasury and assessment operations of LGUs.

Resource management, collection enforcement and credit utilization: Develop and promote plans and programs for the improvement of resource management systems

Sources of financing: Provide technical assistance to LGUs on local taxation, real property assessment and taxation, operation of economic enterprises, crodit financing. inicipal bond issues alternative and non-traditional sources of financing, and related finance matters, and issue guidelines as may be necessary for this purpose,

LGU financial position: Determine the sufficiency and level of income for the creation conversion or abolition of LGUs, based on acceptable standards set by law to provide for all essential government facilities and services and special functions commensurate to the size of the population, update the income classification of LGUs to reflect the changes in their financial position resulting from increased revenues, to provide accurate, timely uniform and comparable local government financial information to the financial market as may be requested and assist in the consolidation of national accounts and economic indicators by providing relevant financial information in the LGU sector

In fulfilling these vital roles the basic approach of BLGF is slowly shifting from regulatory to facilitation. To effectively act as financial advisers to LGUs, BLGF is embarking on a reengineering and retooling of its organizational structure and

#### BLGF'S ROLE IN PROMOTING FISCAL EFFICIENCY

There are three dimensions of fiscal efficiency as far as LGUs are concerned. First, there is the so-called "correspondence aspect" where well taken show we connected with the services that LGU taxpayers receive. Second, the system of grants and transfers from the central government should provide adequate finance to LGUs without overly distorting LGU revenue mobilization preference, e.g., using the Internal Revenue Allelment (IRA) as a substitute for politically costly local tax measures. And third, the system of finance of LGUs particularly borrowings, should not threaten key macro-economic targets as budgetary deficits, inflation, and

#### Promoting Local Tax Correspondence

BLGF has consistently promoted the use of local taxes, fees and user charges that correspond well to the economic activity supported by LGU si of the BLGF alongside the 1992 LGC have resulted in substantial improvements in the correspondence between local "-venue -nobilization

Figure 1 shows the relationship between LGU revenue from taxation and GDP from 1967 to 2005. Note that the organization or use BLGF control of the 1992 LGC are key milestones. Prior to these two events, the growth path of LGU revenue from taxation relative to economic activity at the seconomic activity

Multiple regression analysis has indicated that the operation of BLGF has added 0.53% to the annual percentage growth rate of LGU, rimplementation of the 1992 LGC has added 1.42% annually

The combined effects of the two — operation of BLGF and the 1991 LGC — have contributed approximately Php 10.2 billion aimus Avoiding the Distorting Effects of the IRA and Other National Government Transfers

BLGF is altacking the observed distortions caused by national government transfers via two complementary strategies.

Assisting LGUs on improving local revenue mobilization, particularly, real property taxes (RP1) business taxes (BT), and fogulatory fees: ti economic enterprises.

Helping LGUs access the credit market for project financing

#### Threat Prevention on Macroeconomic Targets

The no-deficit budgetary rule is strictly implemented by BLGF's treasurers

BLGF has consistently promoted judicious borrowings by LGU via the setting of conservative debt service capacities based on the statutor Commission on Audil (COA)-audited accounting figures. It has also consistently batted for use of market interest rates for LGU borrowings for rever

Operating using the framework of the 1992 LGC, regression analysis indicates that BLGF's operations has annually contributed about Php 535.1 billion to country's GDP at current prices based on an estimated Php 10.5 billion annual combined effects of BLGF operation and the 1992 LGC on LGU revenue from texas-

# "BLGF AT THE FOREFRONT OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

local financial governance this

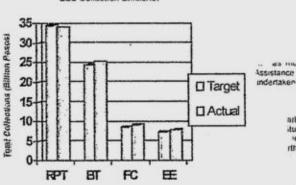
Revenue Generation Program expanded

major and most stable income. The effective dictated its expansion to include collections.

Various factors Lontribute :. targets 1 GU revenue base are ent projects such as the Real Pi ert fax conduct of General Revi enforcement of administr restallation of computerize their local reven lende:

exhibited surpluce and a avera

REVENUE GENERATION PROGRAM



Betler Credit Monitoring of Lous underway.

amudst complex challenges, the Bureau hi institutions making them big contributors t

The Bureau of Lucai Government Fin ontinuously maintains LGU Financial Mcaccurate and timety LGU database that could be stakeholders. The system involves the mointer tinancial indicators that reflects. utilized and the Statement of inc which is a tool to gather baselin. Jolu information on the fiscal performance of the

Alongside the LGU Financial Performent Month performance in generating locally sourced accor-revolved around the collection of real property to major and most stable income. The effective

entry into the consolidated public sector c reached P224 13 billion is against expenditure high surpluses is a result of improved collect-

LGU Collection Efficiency

Lord Revenue Source

BLGF undertakes subsidiary activities in aid of Lou-developed. The database provides an input to loans and c LGUs and serves as a cross-reference among potential up appropriate linancing windows to LGUs. It also sei input for computing. LGU debt service and betrowing cach

### Vision

RLGF is THE focal agency and an authority in local finance

#### Mission

BLGF is the catalyst for local government units to achieve sustainable and effective financial management, thus making them contributors to national development.







BLGF Supports the Ton-Point Agenda of PGMAI

Pres Cloria Macapagal-Arrupa

TREAT THE ODDS - this will be our battle cry and ogenda for the next six

Balanced budget

Education for all

Autumated elections Transport and digital infrastructure to

and NPA conflicts

Heal the wounds of EDSA Electricity and water for all

Opportunities for 10 million

- Decongest Metro Manila

- Develop Clark

www.blgf.gov.ph

BLGF OFFICIALS











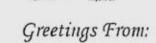


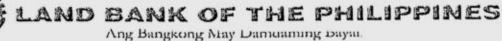












Ang Bangkong May Damuaming Dayar

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle 10 Happy Glen Loop, Bagulo City Tel. No. (074)443-9255 Fax No. (074)443-8971 E-mail: inq\_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU 2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg. Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts Legazpi City Telefax No. (052) 480-4182

E-mail: pr\_provincial\_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

c/o Cebu Daily News 18-15 Escario St., Cebu City Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349 Fax No. (032) 232-9938

MINDANAO BUREAU FEP Printing Corp. Bldg. Ma-a Road, Davao City Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71.3 Fax No. (082)244-1771 E-mail: inq\_davao@inquirer.com.ph 51

# Landslide crushes Ifugao houses; 9 die

#### By Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY-TWO FAMILIES IN two houses in a village in Hingyon, 10 kilometers from the tourist town of Banaue in Ifugao, were asleep on Saturday night when falling rocks thundered on them.

In minutes, nine people, including three girls, were killed as rocks and mud buried the two houses along the Hingyon-Banaue Road in Barangay Upper Pitawan.

Reports reaching here said the slide happened at about 10 p.m. when rocks rolled down from the mountainside along the road and crushed the houses.

Nine members of the Linglingon and Hiadan families were buried alive while a 9-year-old boy survived, the reports said.

Jerome Tuguinay, 28, who was among the first to reach the site, said the victims were pinned down by the rocks and debris.

A crew from the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council and residents in the area helped recover eight bodies, said Tuguinay, who is a member of the staff of Ifugao Vice Gov. Nora Dinamling.

He said the body of Henry Linglingon, 55, had yet to be recovered while the lone survivor, Linglingon's grandson, Denver Bogbog, was taken to the Ifugao Provincial Hospital in Lagawe, the capital town.

Reports said the monsoon rains enhanced by tropical Storm "Hanna" could have triggered the landslide. Ifugao had been under storm signal No. 1 since Friday after Han-

### 'Hanna' exits toward Vietnam

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "HANNA" yesterday swirled out of the country for Vietnam, but would continue to induce the southwest monsoon to bring light rains over the western section of northern Luzon.

Hannah exited the Philippine area of responsibility at around noon Sunday after triggering rains over northern and central Luzon, and the western section of southern Luzon and the Visayas.

Light to moderate rains triggered landslides and spawned floods in areas caught in the path of the depression.

The heaviest total rainfall of 129.8 mm was felt in Subic, Zambales, during a 24-hour period beginning Saturday morning, according to weather forecaster Peter Kindipan Jr.

na, with its 55 kilometers per hour winds, crossed Northern Luzon.

Erma Hiadan, 50, and her three grandchildren-Ruby, 7; Megan, 5; and Johani, 3, all surnamed Manwong-died in the slide. The children's parents are working abroad.

The OCD identified the other fatalities as Cupilyo Hiadan, 80; Julia Linglingon, 52, Henry's wife, and their children Joel, 27, and Rommel, 30.

The slide blocked the Hingyon-Banaue Road, according to reports of the Office of Civil Defense in the Cordillera. Rescue workers reported damage

to two irrigation systems servicing 350 families of Lubuagan, Kalinga. The Wa-it communal irrigation

As it continued to move away from the country, the depression would induce the southwest monsoon to bring rain over the western section of Luzon, including Metro Manila, he said.

"So we will continue to experience cloudy weather with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms; mostly in the afternoon," Kindipan said in an interview.

"The monsoon will also weaken unless the new low pressure area east of Central Luzon develops."

Pagasa lifted the storm signals over several provinces in Luzon at 5 a.m. Sunday. It, however, continued to advise the public living in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes to take precautions against flash floods and landslides. TJ Burgonio

network was washed out by rains while strong rains damaged the neighboring Tab-taba communal irrigation system, the OCD said.

Weather conditions in Ifugao, Kalinga and other Cordillera provinces have improved, the OCD reported, although continuous rains have forced operators of the stateowned Binga and Ambuklao hydroelectric power dams in Benguet to each open one exit gate by a meter.

This is standard operating procedure for dams whose water levels rise close to their respective critical levels due to impounded rainwater.

With reports from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon



815-387-4970 enubrey a andpkg.com Asiun Pacific Quality Organization 45 Hybrid St., Phase IV Greanwoods Lycoutive Village Cainta Rizal, PHHLIPPINES

**News Release** 

Asia Pacific Quality Organization Announces Winners of World Class Performance-International Asia Pacific Quality Awards

Best Performing Organizations in the World

Chicago, Illinois, USA July 31, 2007- Asia Pacific Quality Organization (APQO) today announced The World Class Winners of the International Asia Pacific Quality Awards.

"We are pleased to announce eight organizations from Asia and the Pacific Rim are exemplary companies of world class quality performance as evidenced by winning the International Asia Pacific Quality Award modeled after the U.S. Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence Award" said Charles Aubrey, Chairman of APQO and the International Asia Pacific Quality Award

The following organizations have won the WORLD CLASS AWARD.

Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co., Ltd; Shanghai, China; Mr. Yuan Xin, Chairman.

PT Indo Liberty Textiles; Karawang, Indonesia; Mr. Chand Ratan Dugar, President Director, Tata Chemicals Limited; Noida, India; Mr. Kapil Mehan, Chief Operating Officer

BancoEstado Microempresay: Santiago, Chile; Mr. Jaime Pizarro, Chief Executive Officer/ Chairman. Datamatics Technologies Limited: Mumbai, India: Mr. Rahul L. Kanadia, Vice Chairman and CEO.

Hengyuanxiang (Group) Co Ltd (Textiles); Shanghai, China; Mr. Liu Ruiqi, Chairman of the Board of Directors and General Manager.

Not-For-Profit/Government: Nacional Financiera S.N.C. Mexico City, Mexico: Mr. C.P. Mario Laborin Gomez. Chief Executive

Officer. Education:

Centro De Desarrollo Infantil No. 5 (School); Nuevo Leon, Mexico; Ms. Maria Guadalupe Rodriguez

The following two organizations won the BEST IN CLASS AWARD or second highest award:

Large Manufacturing: Dang Neu Rubber Campany: Long Khanh, Vietnam; Mr. Nguyen Thanh Chau, Director.

Not-For-Profit/Government: Comision Federal de Electricidad; Morelia, Mexico; Mr. Jose de Jesus Moreno Ruiz, Division Manager

Finally the following two organizations wan the QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE or third highest award. Small Manufacturing:

HUU Nghi Cement Factory; Viettri City, Vietnam: Mrs. Nguyen Thi Yen, Director.

Government General Hospital: Ampará. Srl Lanka: Dr. P.K.C.L. Jayasinghe, Medical Superintendent. The awards will be presented at the APQO/ China Association of Quality Conference in Shanghai, China October 18-20. For more information on the conference visit www.saq.org.en-

This is the seventh year of the awards with a record number of companies participating this year as well as a record number of countries participating

About the Asia Pacific Quality Organization (APQO)

The APQO was founded and organized by National Quality Organizations in Asian and Pacific Rim countries including the American Society for Quality and was incorporated in the Philippines in 1985. It is a non-profit organization formed to be a primary mover of continuous improvement for goods and services and quality of life in the Asia Pacific Region. APQO has several hundred National Quality Organizations (Core members), Corporate members, and Individual members. For more information about APQO visit ww.apqo.org.

#### ROUNDUP

#### Register of deeds sacked

ILAGAN, Isabela-The chief of the register of deeds (ROD) in the province was fired last week after he and his aide were arrested while accepting bribe in an entrapment operation in his office at the provincial capitol.

Carlos Serrano, 40, was relieved from his post and transferred to Quirino, said lawyer Elyjane Maltu-Sumineg, acting chief of the ROD in Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon Isabela.

#### Grenade blast kills farmer

COTABATO CITY-Unidentified men on a motorcycle threw a hand grenade at a farmer's home in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato on Monday evening, killing a farmer and wounding another.

Police identified the dead as Edward Federico, 29, of Barangay Midpapan, who suffered shrapnel injuries in different parts of the body. Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

#### 'Jueteng' raid

COTABATO CITY-Police said they have identified a suspected financier of "jueteng" after a raid on the suspect's house on Sept. 21.

City police director Senior Supt. Willie Dangane said the raid was conducted on the house of Toto Ayunan.

Dangane said Ayunan was not at home when the raid took place, but police officers invited for questioning several persons, including his Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

#### Outstanding rural bank

DIGOS CITY-The Land Bank of the Philippines named the Rural Bank of Digos Inc. (RBDI), the first bank established in Davao, fifth "Most Outstanding Rural Bank in the Philippines for the year 2006."

RBDI was chosen among 400 rural banks in the nationwide search launched by Landbank this year.

Landbank based its winners on organizational management, business operations and financial management; pass on rate to small farmers and fishermen; and partnership with the LBP. Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

#### Escaped inmate nabbed

CEBU CITY-Carcar City police arrested a provincial jail inmate who escaped on March 3 after a neighbor reported that he was hiding in his parents' house in Carcar.

Cebu Provincial Police Office (CPPO) director Senior Supt. Carmelo Valmoria identified the inmate as Gilbert Palang, 23, who faces a murder charge and had been detained at the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDRC).

Valmoria said the police arrested Palang at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday after a neighbor informed the police that Palang had been hiding at the house Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas since Sept. 21.

#### H. Iñigo; 65

DAVAO CITY-Ateneo de Davao Law school Dean Hildegardo Iñigo died on Thursday of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease after more than two months of confinement at the Davao Doctor's Hospital here. He was 65.

Iñigo, an eight placer in the 1966 Bar Exams, taught law at the Ateneo de Davao Law School from 1967 to 2007.

His body lies at the University Chapel of the Ateneo de Davao, Jacinto Campus. Interment will be tomorrow at the Davao Memorial Park after the 9 a.m. Mass at the San Pedro Cathedral.

#### M. Santos; 78

MILAGROS Agas Santos, of Marulas, Bulacan, died on Sept. 25, at the age of 78. She lies at the Lily of the Valley Sanctuarium, G. Araneta and Quezon avenues in Quezon City. She will be buried tomorrow at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park in Baesa, Quezon City, after the 9 a.m.

Her husband Leonardo U. Santos; children and children-in-law Armando (†) and Carol; Tommy (†) and Inday, Nilo and Lita, Lito and Terri, Bebe, Ella, Helen, Josie and Mila (†); grandchildren and great-grandchildren, request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

#### Crops worth P6M damaged

ILOILO CITY-THE Bureau of Agricul-Statistics placed damage to crops in Western Visayas at P6 million due to several days of torrential rains brought by the southwest monsoon last week.

Agriculture regional director Larry Nacionales said about 1,700 hectares of rice lands were affected, equivalent to 596 metric tons of rice, in the region.

Worst hit were Iloilo and Negros Occidental, Nacionales said in an interview on Friday. Guimaras and Antique were slightly affected.

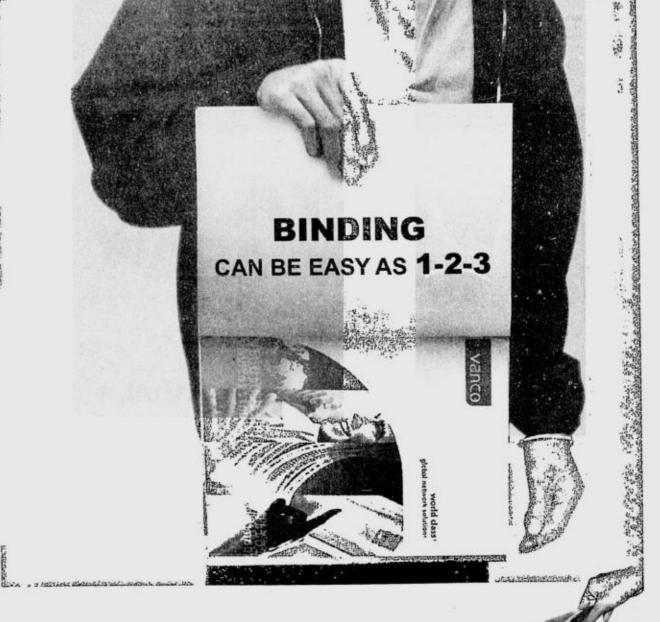
#### Affected

"[Farmers] in the affected provinces were not able to harvest their crops ... The provinces of Capiz and Aklan were not affected because they were able to harvest before the rain came," he added.

Nacionales said his office would provide assistance to the provinces with certified seeds and microbial inoculants. "We will subsidize them of certified seeds at half the price," he said.

Nacionales said certified seeds, which usually sell at P880 per 50bag, kilogram would be provided at only P440 per 50-kilogram bag. David Israel

Sinay, Inquirer Visayas

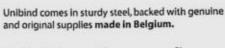




Nice, firm, neat, professional-looking.

That's how your presentation will look with UNIBIND. And it will take you only 3 seconds in 3 quick easy steps to bind the documents:

1. Place the document into the cover set 2. Place the cover in the machine... 3. Your work is done



Ideal for binding portfolio, company profiles, catalogues, manuals, annual reports, hand-outs, press kit, photo book and internal files.

www.unibind.com





### Across the NATION

# Reclassification of Arroyo land not valid, says group

BACOLOD CITY-A FARMERS' Arroyo voluntarily offered it for group said the reclassification sale to the program. of a 157-hectare land in Isabela agro-industrial was invalid.

of Hacienda Bacan in Barangay Guintubhan, Isabela, allegedly owned by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, was defective because not all requirements were complied with.

"The reclassification of Hacienda Bacan from agricultural to agro-industrial land was invalid because the Sangguniang Bayan of Isabela, in passing and approving a zoning ordinance in 2005 that reclassified the property, did not secure an essential requirement-a certification from the DAR (Department of Agrarian Reform) that the property was not subject to CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program)," TFM president Jose Rodito Angeles claimed in a press statement on Saturday.

#### Zoning ordinance

Angeles cited a legal opinion that, he said, was issued on Thursday by DAR Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Nestor Acosta.

The opinion said that the DAR's role in the zoning ordinance reclassification process would be to certify the lands sought for reclassification were neither distributed nor covered by a notice of coverage or not voluntarily offered for coverage under CARP.

secured by the Sanggunian sold to Jose Miguel Arroyo concerned prior to the enactment of an ordinance reclassifying the agricultural land to non-agricultural uses," Angeles quoted Acosta as say-

age in 2001 after Rep. Ignacio Inquirer Visayas

He said the DAR processed town in Negros Occidental into the landowner's claim folder and submitted it to the Land The Task Force Mapalad Bank in 2002 for valuation of (TFM) said the reclassification the property. Nut the Land Bank returned the claim folder to the DAR because the final bill of sale, that showed that the First Gentleman was the landowner, was not annotated in the land

> In returning the claim folder, the Land Bank said the First Gentleman, not his brother, should be the one to make the voluntary offer to sell, the TFM statement said.

The TFM had earlier claimed that the First Gentleman owned Hacienda Bacan, located in Barangay Guintubhan, Isabela. Representative Arroyo had denied this and said Rivulet Agro-Industrial Corp. was the owner.

#### **Purchased property**

But provincial agrarian reform officer Teresita Depeñoso said records of her office showed that the First Gentleman purchased the property in

The DAR has the title of the property, as of March 19, 2001, and a certificate of sale of the delinquent property issued by the office of the Isabela treasurer for Title 105742 Lot 41 covering 157.2992 hectares with entry No. 361407 dated April 1994, Depeñoso said.

The final bill of sale at public auction on April 8, 1994 "This certification must be stated that the property was married to Gloria M. Arroyo,

The area where the property is located was reclassified from agricultural to an industrial estate by the Isabela municipal Angeles said Hacienda Bacan government on Sept. 27, 2005, was placed under CARP cover- Depeñoso said. Carla P. Gomez,



PROTEST OVER TUITION HIKE

NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

About 300 students marched Friday to protest tuition increases and other issues facing University of the Philippines' students as the UP Board of Regents met in the Los Baños Complex.

# Palawan town officials scored for favoring mining companies despite track record

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY-ENcouraged by a permissive local government sector and regulatory agencies that may be willing to cover for their violations, errant mining companies continue to operate in Palawan.

A company penalized last year by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for violating Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) conditions, including overextraction of minerals, has applied for a new mining exploration permit in Narra in southern Palawan and has reportedly been endorsed by local municipal officials, according to a mining watchdog organization.

Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC), whose ECC was stripped by the DENR on Sept. 25, 2006, has closed its operations, but it recently applied for exploration on a new site in the same municipality.

"They (PGMC officials) are back despite the punitive actions imposed on them by the to reverse Reyes' ruling on the

DENR. They seem to enjoy the complaint filed against it for support of local officials despite violations they committed," Beth Maclang, advocacy officer of the Palawan NGO Network (PNNI) told the INQUIRER.

Company officials repeatedly failed to return calls from the INQUIRER to respond to the issues raised against them by the antimining groups.

#### Planned operation

Roberto Nieto, a senior official of PGMC, however, was interviewed by a local radio station, wherein he stated that they planned to restart operations "within the next four

The PGMC case triggered a turf war between the Office of the Executive Secretary and the DENR during the term of then Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, who had ordered the cancellation of PGMC's permit.

PGMC had convinced Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita

overextraction and ECC violations.

The matter was resolved recently after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales issued a legal opinion upholding the authority of the DENR to impose the sanction against mining companies, like PGMC.

#### 'Restricted zone'

Maclang claimed that Narra officials recently revised their zoning plans in order to reclassify the area being applied for by PGMC in Sitio Lapu-Lapu, Barangay Poblacion from its previous designation as "restricted zone" which means closed to mining, to "multiple-use zone."

"The municipality is one of the few municipalities in Palawan that deliberately revoked its own land classification plan in February 2006 just to accommodate the mining projects that have come to that place," Maclang said.

Maclang pointed out that zon

PGMC mining operations in Barangay San Isidro, Narra had left in its wake problems such as laterite siltation of rice and agricultural lands.

PGMC paid damages to farmers whose farmlots were affected by siltation, records obtained by the Inquirer showed.

The PNNI recently closed ranks with the Roman Catholic Church to step up its antimining campaign in Palawan, taking PGMC as a rallying issue.

Some legislators critical of the mining company have vowed to scrutinize the firm's permit applications in the provincial level.

"They should first restore the mountains that they destroyed before even contemplating on filing another application," said Board Member Gil Acosta, chair of the environment and natural resources committee. Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Lu-

#### Send money thru ML KWARTA PADALA and have a chance to win cash prizes? **MECHANICS:** 1. All ML Kwarta Padala send-out transactions qualify for this promo. 2. For every KPTN reflected on the MLKP send-out form, participant earns one (1) computer generated raffle entry Transactions within the day from 12:00mn to 11:59pm qualifies for the draw. On the 4 Winners will be following day, non-winning entries after the day's draw will not be included drawn daily 4. There will be 4 winners per day broken down as follows: Two (2) winners from Luzzon/MCP and the rest of the control of the co Visayas/Mindanao. 5. Lucky sender wins back the amount sent as reflected on the winning ML Kwarta Padata send-out form. WIN as much as 6. If the winner is a registered ML Cardholder during the time of the draw, he wins double the amount sent. If the winner is the amount sent. a registered ML Cardholder, the branch operator where the winner got his ML Card wins P1,000.00 cash. 7 A customer is considered an ML Cardholder if during the transaction the customer presents to the frontliner his/her ML. Promo Period: Card that has already been registered prior to the Aug. 1 10 Nov. 30, 2007 a. transaction. Winners will be notified thru phone call and by registered mail. Names of winners will be posted in all M. Lhuiltier branches and published in a newspaper of general circulation. A winning KPTN number only wins once during the entire duration of Registered ML Card 10. Winners must personally present the winning Mt. Kwarta Padal holders will win send-out form at any M. Lhuilter branch with a valid ID logether with the registered mail from M. Lhuilber to double their prize claim their prize plus his Mt. Card if any. 11. Prizes not claimed 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfested in favor of M. Lhuillier Philippines with prior approval of DTI. 12. All employees of M. Lhuillier Philippines and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo. 13. Promo is from August 01 to November 30, 2007 "Ang Tulay ng Pilipino

### Pro-gov't groups formed vs militants

By Marlon Ramos

Inquirer Southern Luzon

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA-POLICE DIrectors in five provinces have been directed to form "people's organizations" to counter the propaganda activities of alleged legal fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"There's no other way to fight the legal fronts of the CPP but through legal means also. We should use the parliament of the streets. It's just propaganda against propaganda," said Chief Supt. Louie Palmera, newly appointed director of the Mimaropa police office on Friday.

Mimaropa covers the provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan.

Palmera also ordered the new provincial police chiefs to expect attacks and ambuscades from the communist New People's Army (NPA) in the next few days as "pasalubong" (welcome gift).

He told his men to initiate the setting up of pro-government groups to counter the propaganda of militant groups against the Arroyo administration and to assist in strengthening the peace and order councils

in the town, provincial and regional levels. "Law enforcement authorities and the communities are inseparable," he added.

According to Palmera, this approach is one of the highlights of the anti-insurgency operation plan being implemented under the "Maagap Alpha" program of the Philippine National Police.

The tactic has been proven effective in "driving away" CPP organizers in the barangays, the officer said.

"Maagap Alpha" is the PNP's counterpart of "Oplan Bantay Laya II" of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Palmera said.

Militants groups have claimed that the abductions and murders of their-leaders and members were among the components of "Oplan Bantay Laya."

In support of "Maagap Alpha," Palmera said he had ordered more police-initiated attacks on NPA units in the region.

In the next few weeks, the elite PNP Regional Mobile Group and the Provincial Mobile Group will step up its armed campaign against the rebels, he said.

"I want all the five provincial police offices to conduct offensive operations against the NPAs at least seven days a month," Palmera said.

# Husband of convicted OFW appeals to GMA

COTABATO CITY-THE HUSBAND OF A and his sister Hajar, 11. Filipino overseas worker convicted of killing her employer's son in Kuwait has appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for help.

Leo Vecina, husband of May Membrini Vecina, said she is innocent of the charges.

"Please, Madam President, use your power, use your influence and exhaust all means to save May," Leo of Matalam, North Cotabato, said in the vernacular over Church-run radio dxND in Kidapawan City on Sept. 29.

"Have a heart for May, please help me and my children bring back my wife alive," he said in between sobs.

Leo said he had so many sleepless nights because of what happened to his wife.

May, 25, was convicted in July for the death in January of 7-year-old Salem al-Otaibi, one of her wards. Reports based on Court records showed May

"slit the boy's throat using a kitchen knife."

She was also found guilty of attempting to kill her two other wards-Abdullah, 11

Leo said May's lawyer had lodged an appeal but the Kuwaiti Appellate Court upheld the earlier verdict, which carried a death sentence.

In Kuwait, death sentences are carried out by hanging after the execution order is signed by the Emir or the country's chief.

The stories that we see on TV are unbelievable, what could have triggered May to attack the children when she loved chil-

dren," Leo said. "I am very puzzled by the turn of events. I can't believe that, she can't do that because she is a mother and have children too," Leo added.

He said the only reason his wife went to Kuwait was to help provide a good future for their three children.

"I'm only a farmer, how could I raise my children without their mother," Leo said.

He also appealed for prayers for his wife. "I know the power of prayers and I know that she is innocent," Leo said. Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

# Across the NATION

# Bugkalot dads beg for action on Casecnan fund

By Melvin Gascon Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA-OFFIcials and tribal elders of the Bugkalot community in remote Alfonso Castañeda town are growing edgy over the delayed resolution of a case filed against their former mayor involving the alleged misuse of P30.7 million in local funds.

Mayor Jerry Pasigian, a Bugkalot, said the people were wondering what had been keeping the Ombudsman from resolving the charges that four village chiefs filed in July 2006 against former Mayor Alfredo

"Our people have not forgotten about the money that was supposed to benefit them. They want justice for our town," he said.

Contacted on the progress of the case, officials of the Office of the Ombudsman, however, said the charges against Castillo were still under review.

In a letter sent to the Inquirer, Rolando Zoleta, acting director of the office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, said their findings on the case were awaiting the approval of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez.

The Inquirer tried to contact Castillo on Friday, but he could not be reached through his mobile phone.

In an interview made before the cases were filed against him, Castillo insisted that he had nothing to do with the loss of the barangays' RPT share.

#### Village shares

The P30.7 million comprises the shares of villages Pelaway, Abuyo, Cawayan and Lipuga from the accumulated P250.7-million real property tax (RPT) that was paid by California Energy-Casecnan, an American firm, in 2005.

CE Casecnan owns and operates the Casecnan Multi-Purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP), a hydroelectric facility composed of two impounding dams and a power plant connected by a pair of 26-km tunnels.

In their complaint, Bugkalot village chairs Potado Gabogen (Pelaway), Tomas

Cawad (Cawayan), Engagen Pasigian (Lipuga) and Milton Suaking (Abuyo) accused Castillo of allegedly defrauding them and appropriating for himself the proceeds of their barangay's RPT share.

Mayor Pasigian expressed optimism that the case would not "fall into oblivion," amid all the hype stirred by the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

"This anomaly may be small compared to the other cases of corruption that we hear about these days. We may be a small town, but our people deserve justice as well," the mayor said.

Pasigian defeated Castillo for the mayoral post in the May 2007 elections.

Official records revealed that when the case was filed, Pelaway, which hosts CMIPP's weirs, had already received P20.3 million as its share in the RPT. Abuyo, which covers almost the entire length of the tunnels, got P10.4 million.

Lipuga and Cawayan were also given their share as a form of goodwill, as the chiefs agreed that these barangays were part of the CMIPP's "primary impact zone."

#### Town share

Aside from the barangay's share, the town government of Alfonso Castañeda received P110.6 million, representing 40 percent of the CE Casecnan's tax payment.

"This [case only involves] the share of the barangay. The Ombudsman should look deeper because this is just the tip of the iceberg," said an official, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal.

The source, who is privy to the disbursement of the Casecnan fund, said provincial officials have been very lax in releasing the RPT shares of Alfonso Castañeda despite the perceived irregularities, because "they, too, abused the Casecnan fund."

The complainants said that Castillo, after they received their share of the Casecnan RPT, instructed them while inside a hotel in nearby Solano town to issue blank checks. This was supposedly to facilitate the start of projects in their villages.

#### SHOW OFF YOUR WINNING FORM "The Santre system is an option for those with certain type of injuries or medical conditions to undergo weight loss & selective toning." Cito Beltran Media Veteran, Columnist Enrolled OmniVital Regular - for fat loss Loss: 18 lbs., 46.5 cms "Losing weight is one thing, keeping the weight off is another. Santre has helped me achieve both." Butch Jimenez, Jr. SVP, PLDT Retail Sales & Producer Enrolled OmniVital Regular - for fat loss Loss: 14 lbs., 42.2 cms "I like their professionalism. They don't make empty promises or statements just to get clients in."

Chiz Escudero

Senator, Republic of the Philippines

Enrolled OmniVital Lymphatics - for health improvement

improved metabolism, immune system & detoxification

www.institutsantre.com

Three of the most successful men in their respective fields. MEN OF AUTHORITY, who are winners in every right and by every definition. These men trust their health, looks and well-being with INSTITUT SANTRE Find out why NOW.

LYMPHATICS PROGRAMS . FATER INCHILOSS . MUSCLE TONING PROGRAMS

# 2 suspects in shooting of Inquirer man arraigned

LUCENA CITY-FIVE MONTHS AFTER pistol is still lodged near the spinal column. INOUIRER correspondent Delfin T. Mallari Jr. narrowly survived an attempt on his life, two suspects were arraigned at the sala of Judge Norma Chionglo Sia of Branch 56 of the Lucena Regional Trial Court here on

were seated on the front row while Mallari sat on the next.

Mallari claimed that the back of Sudla's body resembled that of the man who was riding on a motorcycle which sped away after he was shot.

The newsman was driving his car on his way to work in April when he was shot by a man riding in tandem with another man on

Mallari was wounded in the left portion of his back. His companion, dzMM correspondent Johnny Glorioso, was unhurt.

The slug of the bullet fired from a .45 cal.

Sudla and Encanto are out on bail after paying P320,000 each after the court ordered their arrest for attempted and frustrated murder charges regarding the am-

The suspects, who are both in their 40s. The suspected gunman, Renato Sudla, are members of the Tau Gamma Phi fraterand his alleged cohort, Armando Encanto, nity, the same fraternity to which incumbent Gov. Raffy Nantes belongs.

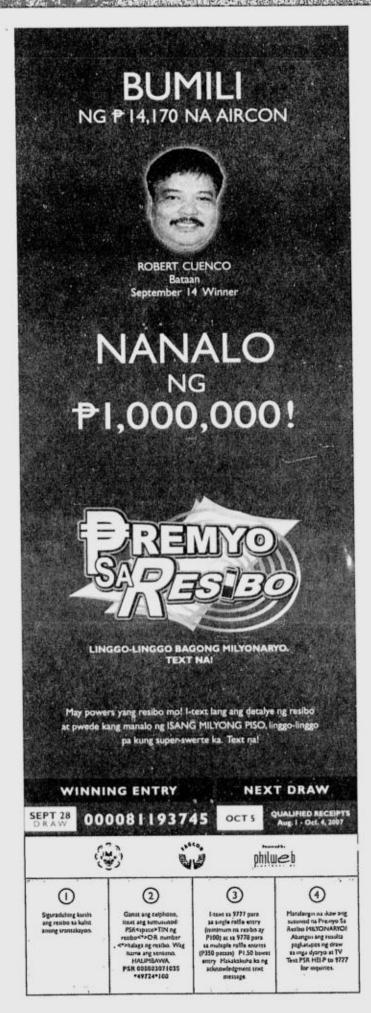
Mallari has accused Nantes of being the mastermind, which the governor has vehemently denied.

The newsman's lawyer, Vicente Joyas, agreed to have the arraignment reset for Nov. 27 after Encanto's lawyer Marcelino Arias Jr. moved for the deferment as they were filing a motion for review before the Department of Justice.

The Inquirer tried to get the reaction of Sudla and Encanto but the two declined to be interviewed. Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon



in Technologies, Inc. • Tel 7230601 to 12 • Fax 723 7951 • Website www.sti.com.ph





MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007

## New clash in South

fighting between government troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front forces erupted yester-

day in Datu Saudi, Maguindanao. Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, told the INQUIRER by phone fighting broke out after suspected militiamen, backed by civilian volunteer organization (CVO) members, fired two 81-mm mortars on Barangay Kitango at 3 p.m.

He said no casualties were re-

ported. "One of the mortars landed near the headquarters of the joint local monitoring team and the international monitoring team. The other one landed near civilians. Until now, the exchange of gunfire is going on," Kabalu said.

He said the attack was triggered by the ambush of the Datu Saudi police chief by the group of Commander Datu Mando Tambulan-

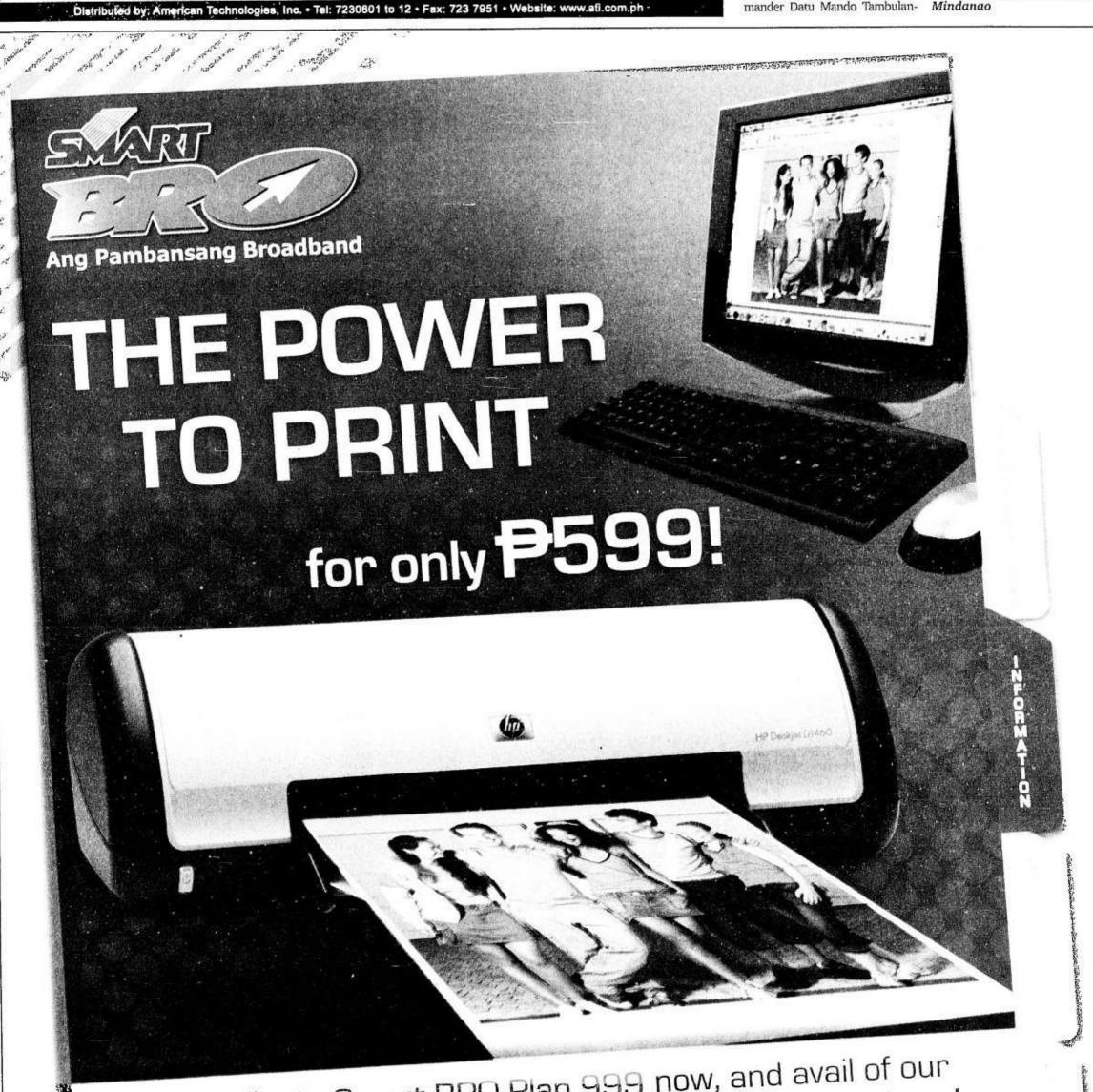
CITY-FRESH gan of the Moro National Liberation Front.

"The CVOs and militiamen accused us of protecting Tambulangan, that's why we were dragged into the incident. We have no tactical alliance with Tambulangan. Our troops were in a defensive position when they were attacked," Kabalu said.

"But based on our initial information, it's between two forces of the MILF operating in the area. We have no idea what's causing the conflict. We are closely watching if it will escalate along the national highway," he said.

Last week, suspected Moro rebels ambushed a convoy of international peace monitors and the military in the same town.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao



Subscribe to Smart BRO Plan 999 now, and avail of our exclusive one-time payment offer on this HP color printer!

PRINTER SPECIFICATIONS

Print Technology Print Speed Print Quality

Memory

Weight

Dimensions

B&W - 16ppm, Colored - 12ppm 8&W - 1200dpi, Colored - 4800x1200dpi Integrated Memory 2.04 kg (out-of-package)

D422mm x W260mm x H140mm

Count on Smart BRO to get you connected! • NATIONWIDEST COVERAGE • SUPER FAST INSTALLATION • NO NEED FOR A PHONE LINE • FASTER THAN DIAL-UP

Get the Power to Print with Smart BRO and HP. Apply now at your nearest Smart Wireless Center.



See posters and flyers for details. Promo runs until December 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4436, Series of 2007.

For inquiries, call \*1888 from your Smart cellphone or log on to www.smart.com.ph.





Website: www.inquirer.net/metro

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr\_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Attn: Local Gov't. Units ( LGU ) For all your requirements of (IUD)Intra-Uterine Device, Condom Non-Scalpel Vasectomy Instruments (NSV), best prices at AAA Pharma Inc,(02)7268715 email: aaapharma@ggii.com.ph 09228574150. Distributors apply

# SC finds teacher guilty of child abuse

# Accused forced student into having sex with him, says court

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS FOUND A FORMER professor of an exclusive girls' school in Makati guilty of child abuse for seducing his 17-year-old student in 1997.

ruling affirmed the Court of Appeals decision convicting Michael Malto-who used to teach philosophy at the Assumption College—of violating the child abuse law for having mum prison term of 14 years

his student.

The high court, however, imposed a stiffer penalty on Malto by sentencing him to a mini-

committing lascivious acts on ordered him to pay the victim P100,000 in civil indemnity and moral damages.

imposed a minimum prison sentence of 8 years and one day to

The high tribunal's Sept. 21 sexual intercourse with and and 8 months to 20 years. It also 17 years, 4 months and a day on the former professor.

> Based on court records, Malto and his student, who The appellate court earlier was then only 17 years old, had sex on two occasions in SC FINDS/ A24

# Makati honors 101-year-old grandmother

By DJ Yap

SHE HAS LITERALLY SEEN THE GROWTH of Makati City from the time it was still known as San Pedro Makati to its rise as the financial capital of the country.

Today, 101-year-old Paula Garcia-Samarista will be honored, along with two of her slightly younger peers, in a special ceremony at the Makati City Hall celebrating their longevity.

To mark the beginning of Senior Citizen's Week, the city famous for pampering its elderly residents will pay tribute to Garcia-Samarista, Melchora Oria-Ancheta, 97, and Mercedes Sarmiento-Belandres, 95.

Mayor Jejomar Binay will lead local officials in the ceremony to be conducted at the City Hall quadrangle, where the three will receive a cash reward and a certificate recognizing their status as the city's most senior inhabitants.

Garcia-Samarista was born on, June 29, 1906 to the late Sinporosa Garcia of Culi-Culi, now known as Barangay Pio del Pilar,

Just five years before she was born, San Pedro Makati, with a population of just 2,500, was incorporated into the province of Rizal. On Feb. 28, 1914, the Philippine Legislature passed a law shortening the name to just Makati.

Garcia-Samarista is the widow of the late Marcial Samarista, with whom she bore seven children. She has 22 grandchildren.

Ancheta, on the other hand, was born on Jan. 6, 1910 to the late Doroteo Oria and Fausta Medina of Bulangao, Pangasinan. At the age of 29, she married Nicolas Ancheta and bore three children, who produced for them 12 grandchildren.

Belandres, a pharmacist by profession, was born on Sept. 22, 1912 to Simeon Sarmiento and Justay Dimaandal of Batan-

A former Miss Batangas, she married Angel Belandres, an agriculture graduate from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, with whom she had two children. She has four grandchildren.

ing residents, officials will visit elderly patients at the city run-hospital, the Ospital ng Makati in Barangay Pembo, and the Acute Care Center in Barangay Bel-Air.

The following day, a similar visit will be conducted at private hospitals, including the Makati Medical Center and St. Clare

focus on our oldest residents, but on the elderly who are confined in these four hospitals, because they, too, deserve to be remembered on this special week dedicated

Each patient will receive a bag of groceries from the city government.

include a table tennis tournament at the Barangay Guadalupe Nuevo Covered Court on Oct. 3, and a "Hindi Pa Kami Laos" singing contest on Oct. 4 at the Mini Theater of the University of Makati.

mga Pasaway," a ballroom dance at the City Hall quadrangle, and a "Physical Fitness Day" on Oct. 6.

#### DID YOU KNOW

sons flocked to the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City to witness one of the greatest boxing fights of the century: The "Thrilla in Manila" match between heavy-

The 15-round fight ended in a TKO win for Ali in the 14th round. He got \$6 million for the fight, while Frazier pocketed



alabang · baliuag manila bay • ortigas



VARIOUS ITEM DISCOUNT ON SELECTED PRODUCTS! ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT ON TOTAL SINGLE TRANSACTION





Solignum











GARDENA

KENT VINYL TILES

Panasonic

WIRING DEVICES

STANLEY

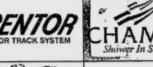
The state of



DECOWOOD



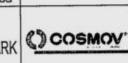








Home Safe"



FIREFLY

Hornitex



Aside from honoring the city's oldest liv-

Hospital on Dian St., Barangay Palanan.

"Our visits and gift-giving will not only to honor them," Binay said.

Other events for Senior Citizen's Week

On Oct. 5, the city will hold "Pasayaw ng

ON OCT. 1, 1975, more than 30,000 per-

weights Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research





















Tilerön



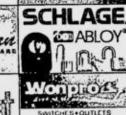


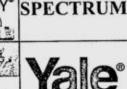












For inquiries, you may call us at:

ORTIGAS HOME DEPOT Doña Julia Vargas Avenue near corner Meralco Avenue.,

WÄSSERNISON

JOKO 0

.-Ugong, Pasig City . Nos.: 683.0823; 683.0826 636.0772; 636.0773; 636.7454 Fax No. 683.0824 WESTGATE ALABANG HOME DEPOT

Lot 103-117 Alabang-Zapote Road cor. Filinvest Ave., Westgate Alabang, Muntinlupa City Tel. Nos.: 771.1627 to 29 Fax No. 771.1626

**BALIUAG HOME DEPOT** DRT Highway, Brgy, Tarcan, Ballaug, E Tel. Nos. (044) 766.7957; (02) 299.8269

MANILA BAY HOME DEPOT Macapagal Blvd. corner Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Ext., Pasay City Tel. Nos. 833.5456; 833.5768 618.5105; 556.1471; 556.1464 Fax No. 556.1468

\*See flyers for more details.



home Interior superstore

at the 2nd Floor

manila bay • ortigas GRAND OPENING

SALE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3443

Series of 2007

### METRO

# Suicide or murder? Cops probing police official's death

## San Juan U to open in June 2008

By Kristine L. Alave

THE SAN JUAN CITY GOVERNment has started constructing its own university, which is scheduled to open June next year, Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito said.

In a recent interview with reporters, Ejercito said the city government has started to renovate and refurbish the three-story, 20room building vacated by the AMA Computer College in Barangay Batis, San Juan City, this year.

It has also begun securing permits from the Commission on Higher Education, he added. In the future, the local government hopes to build another wing for the school to accommodate 1,500 students.

Ejercito said the university will offer popular courses such as accounting, nursing, hotel management, and engineering.

He also added that there are plans to make the governmentowned San Juan Medical Center a teaching hospital.

### SC finds ...

From page A23

1997 in a Pasay City motel.

The high tribunal noted that Malto had used his influence over the girl and had pressured her to have intercourse with

According to the Supreme Court, even though the girl had agreed to have sex with him, Malto could not use this as a defense because she was below 18 years old then.

"The mere act of having sexual intercourse or committing lascivious conduct with a child who is exploited in prostitution or subjected to sexual abuse constitutes the offense," it the trade.

added. Malto had also contended that he and the girl were in a relationship at that time, but the tribunal said this was immateri-

"For purposes of sexual intercourse and lascivious conduct here, I would definitely want to in child abuse cases under Republic Act 7610, the sweetheart defense is unacceptable. A child exploited in prostitution or subjected to other sexual abuse cannot validly give consent to sexual intercourse with another person," the high court said.

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

POLICE SAID THEY WERE still trying to determine whether or not there was foul play in the death of a Quezon City police official before midnight Saturday.

The body of Supt. Jose "Joe-Gar" Garcia, 51, commander of the Quezon City Police District's Station 8, was found by his son

at the back of their house in Veterans Village, Barangay Pasang Tamo, Quezon City, at around 11:30 p.m.

Garcia's body bore a lone gunshot wound in the left chest. Scene of the Crime Operatives later found at the crime scene a cal. .45 pistol with serial number FG89126.

It was not immediately clear who the gun belonged to.

Garcia's son, Jericho, 15, told the police that around 30 minutes before the incident, he and his father bade each other goodnight.

They went into their respective rooms and then a few minutes later, Jericho said his father went inside his room, kissed him and bade him goodnight a second time.

He added that he was awak-

like a gunshot which came from their backyard. He said he went to his father's room but found it

Jericho told the police that he then ran to the backyard where he saw his father's body lying on the ground.

The boy immediately asked for help from his relatives and neighbors who rushed the vic-

ened later on by what sounded tim to the Malvar General Hospital.

> Garcia, however, was pronounced dead on arrival at 12:15 a.m. by Dr. Manuel Lacuesta.

Although authorities have not ruled out suicide as the cause of the victim's death, they are also looking into the possibility that the police official could have been murdered.

# Dramatic career shift: From accountant to welder

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

ALPHA DASMARIÑAS WANTED to work abroad because her job as an accountant bored her.

Wanting a more challenging and unique job, she went back to school to study.

A strong advocate of women empowerment, Dasmariñas, 32, took up the challenge, taking a recourse often perceived as a man's job.

Not caring if she would be tagged as "one of the boys", she enrolled at the Labor-Link Technical Institute (Labor-Link), the first welding school in Quezon City put up to produce globally competitive welders.

"We had women, out-ofschool youths and senior citizens in mind when we first thought of this project," said Bernadette Herrera-Dy, a Quezon City councilor and founder of the Bagong Henerasyon (BH) Foundation, the organization that helped put up Labor-Link last February to provide employment opportunities for the city's residents.

BH Foundation, created in 2002, coordinates efforts to tap potential workforce and develop people's skills. Dy said they were aware of the strong de-

mand for male and female welders alike, and realized they could provide steady supply only if there was a venue where people could get formal training in

Dasmariñas, who graduated last June, will start working as a welder for a real es-

company in Makati City in a couple of the chance to continue their edgo abroad, too," she said.

According to Dy, Dasmariñas is only one of at least 50,000 welders in demand in and out of the country today.

Since the organization put up the welding school, the foundation has produced at least 280



OUEZON CITY Councilor Bernadette Herrera-Dy (center) and Carlo Dimayuga III (third from left), PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ Labor-Link president, check out a student's welding skills.

graduates, 40 of whom are already working abroad. The organization either supports or helps students get sponsors for their studies or facilitates scholarship grants from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Apart from being the pioneer welding school in the city, La-

IVALUES OF

THE CITY

bor-Link, located in Balintawak, Quezon City, also boasts of a big number of women students enrolled in the course alongside their male counterparts.

The response has overwhelmthe councilor the INQUIRER. "High school graduates who never had

weeks. "After getting experience ucation can now do so with this program."

She added that even people who have not been able to go to school or those with no experience in welding can enroll as long as they show a genuine interest in learning the trade. Even people who already know how to weld but had no formal train-



ALPHA Dasmariñas (left) and her classmate, Joan Gayapanao.

ing can also enroll to get technical training, she said.

Dy noted that when they opened the welding school in February, there were only three female students out of 40 who enrolled. Today, she said, there are about 50 female students out of the 180 who signed up for the course.

"This is for the women, so I'm happy that we are seeing more female enrollees in school," she said. "But this does not mean

we're discouraging men to enroll. They're very welcome to

Female welders are actually more preferred than males abroad, said Carlo Dimayuga III, president of Labor-Link. "This is because women have 'lighter' hands and more flexible wrists that tend to produce more polished work," he added.

He noted that women welders are also generally more patient than men so foreign companies prefer to hire them, especially for jobs that require extensive attention to intricate details.

Gene Madridano, one of the four instructors in the welding own welding school."

school, noticed that his female students are definitely at par, if not better, than his male students. "They're not just good at the application part, they're also good in the lecture portion. Men sometimes are not as focused in this area," he said.

Dimayuga said that this early, companies from Korea, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Taiwan, among others, have expressed interest in hiring their female graduates.

The basic course Shield Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) lasts for a total of 38 days or 304 hours, Carlo said. Classes are held from Mondays to Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students then have the option to take the next more advanced course called Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW).

The students who enroll in the program, Dimayuga pointed out, have to pay "virtually nothing" because everything is shouldered by Tesda. The course, for walk-ins or those who do not have scholarships, on the other hand, costs from P10,000 to P15,000.

Welders who graduate from Labor-Link are ready for hiring in any shipping, pipeline, real estate and construction company anywhere in the world, Madridano said.

According to Dasmariñas, "I am proud to be a welder. This is now my life. Years from now, I will come back here after gaining valuable experience abroad. Who knows, I may even start a welding business or put up my



DY (fourth from right) poses with some of her women "scholars." Of the 180 students enrolled in the welding course, 50 are female.



\* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

**OPEN HOUSE** DAILY

30% D/P 101, Balance thru in-House convertible to 'Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

531-4121\*534-9921\*531-1384\*534-8350 (0920)950-4626\*(0915)317-5553\*(0920)911-0002 www.guevent.com \* hbi@guevent.com



Development Bank of the Philippines

### INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Floor Price	
REAL ESTATE METRO MANILA					
AM-RP- 46	Residential lot (TCT No.T-100570) with bldg, & imp.	253	No. 23 Sangumay St. corner Manposa St., Manuela Subd., Phase III-/ Pamplona, Las Piñas City	P1,560,300.00 A	
BATANGAS					
PSM -01	Two (2) adjoining lots (TCT Nos. 108495 & 108496)	3,165	Ayala Highway, Brgy. Balintawak, North Lipa City	P29,118,000.00	
NUEVA ECIJA					
AM-RP- 48	Residential lot (TCT No.T-118073) with bldg, & imp.	100	Lot 15-Blk.1, Vista Amor Subd., Brgy. Bangad, Cabanatuan City	P 301,000.00	

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets and PSM. For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 locals 2158/2159/2166 for Code starting with AM and 818-9511 loc. 2000/2001 for Code PSM.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT





BARANGAY HALL ON MANILA SIDEWALK Lorenzo Gadon of New Manila, Quezon City, texted this message: "There is a barangay hall standing on the sidewalk of Bambang Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila. The presence of the structure has discouraged prospective buyers from taking a look at the property behind it. The owners of the lot, who are my clients, said its value and market appeal had also been diminished because of the illegal structure. A notice of demolition from the City Engineer's Office of Manila was already sent to the barangay chairman several years ago, but it was allegedly ignored. The chairman reportedly said he had the permission of the former mayor to build the structure. We trust that Mayor Lim takes action on this problem, believing in his guiding philosophy that 'the law applies to all, otherwise none at all." CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Street signs needed, Mayor Bernabe

MAY WE bring to the attention of our mayor, Florencio Bernabe Jr., the need for street signs in the following streets in Parañaque City: No Parking Anytime sign on Rodriguez Street in Barangay Moonwalk, where inconsiderate residents park their vehicles even during rush hour, and the same sign on St. Peter Street, also a busy thoroughfare with a talipapa (wet market) and school in the area; a Slow Down sign between Ireland and Iceland streets in Better

Living Subdivision, and a Full Stop sign on Don Bosco corner India Streets. There is also a drainage problem on St. Peter Street when the streets are flooded because of heavy rains. Thanks for your help.

WILMA ALO, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City

#### Messy customer service project

THE MAYNILAD-DMCI project in Barangay 443, Zone 44, Sampaloc, Manila, has resulted in muddy roads, clogged drainage and stagnant water overflowing in the streets. Can improvements be made without creating a mess? This is so inconvenient for both motorists and pedestrians. Paging Maynilad or Mayor Lim!

CATHY ARARACAP, 45, Sampaloc, Manila

#### Street corner on Taft Avenue used as passenger pickup terminal

JEEPNEYS are obstructing the flow of traffic at the corner of Taft Avenue and Padre Faura Street in front of the Supreme Court building because drivers like to pick up passengers in the area even when they are not allowed to do so. Please help us put a stop to this obnoxious practice. Thanks a lot. JOSEPH, 27, Padre Faura, Manila

# Metro Hallers

#### **DPWH** responds to Citizens Call complaint

THIS refers to the published text message of Ms Suzzane Datuin (Metro page A20, Aug. 20), regarding her request to immediately fix the potholes on Osmeña Highway.

According to Department of Public Works and Highways South Manila district engineer Mikunug Macud, as of Aug. 23, the maintenance section of their office has completed the patching of potholes on the said section of the road. Macud added that they had also completed the repair of potholes on Roxas Boulevard, Edsa T.M. Kalaw, P. Burgos, Buendia Extension, Taft Avenue, MIA Road and Quirino Avenue.

We hope we have clarified the issue for the benefit of the people that we both serve. Thank you very much

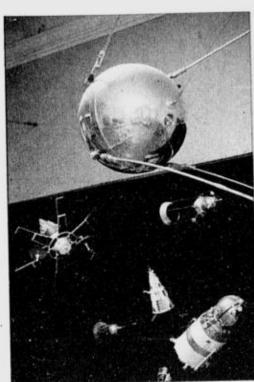
and more power. Elizabeth Pilorin OIC-Chief, Public Information Division

Department of Public Works and Highways

# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Asia seen beating US in next Space Race



A REPLICA of the first Russian Sputnik satellite (top), which was launched on Oct. 4, 1957, to start a new era of space exploration.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA-FIFTY YEARS AFTER THE just by standing still." launch of Sputnik left the United States scrambling to play catch-up in the first Space Race, US scientists fear history may be repeating itself as Asia emerges as the rising force in space exploration.

programs run by China, Japan and India are modest in comparison to the milestones set by the United States and former Soviet Union, experts at a recent conference in Pasadena believe it is only a matter of time before Asia leads the field.

China, which sent a man into space for the first time in 2003, plans to launch its own moon probe before the end of the year, followed by India in the first half of 2008. Japan kickstarted the Asian lunar race on Sept. 14 when it successfully launched its first lunar orbiter.

While China and India have raised the possibility of a manned lunar mission within the next decade, the United States has vowed to return to the moon in 2020, 48 years after the last

While the achievements of space US visit. Nasa meanwhile has set the ambitious target of wanting to put a man on Mars in 2037.

"When we celebrate 100 years of Sputnik, we might celebrate the 20th anniversary of man landing on Mars," Frank Griffin, Nasa's chief administrator said recently.

But many astrophysicists, space engineers and other high-ranking US scientists do not share Griffin's optimism, pointing to waning interest in space exploration amongst young Americans and a lack of government investment in developing elite scientists.

"In-America, contrary to our selfimage, we are no longer leaders but simply players," said Neil De-Grasse Tyson, the director of the Hayden Planetarium in a recent editorial. "We've moved backward

The numbers of new scientists in Asian countries are eclipsing those in the United States. In 2004, around 500,000 engineers graduated in China, 200,000 in India and only 70,000 in the US, according to a report from the National Academy of Sciences released this year.

The authors of the report-"Rising Above the Gathering Storm"-warned the United States risked losing its position as the leading technological superpower if present trends continued.

"Although many people assume that United States will always be a world leader in science and technology, this may not continue to be the case," the report warned. "We fear the abruptness with which a lead in science and technology can be lost-and the difficulty of recovering a lead once lost, if indeed it can be regained at all.

"This nation must prepare with great urgency to preserve its strategic and economic security."

According to Ares Rosakis, a professor of Aeronautics at the presti- ple in the pipeline."

gious California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, the scientific community has struggled to capture the imagination of younger generations.

"We have failed to communicate and infuse the excitement of space into our younger generation," Rosakis said.

Charles Elachi, the director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, echoed

Rosakis' comments. "Clearly, there are so many distractions in our society but every time we have kids visiting JPL and we talk about space exploration, showing them Mars rovers, having astronauts, they

get completely taken by it," Elachi said. "The challenge we have now in our society is the wide distraction that kids get from networks, games, iPods, YouTube and so on. We need to figure a way to get their attention."

Frank Fernandez, director emeritus of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, blamed a lack of investment in human resources.

"We need to invest in people," Fernandez warned. "We don't have peo-

#### WORLDBRIEFS

#### Nuclear envoys reach 'comprehensive' N. Korea deal

BEIJING-Envoys from six nations struck an agreement Sunday on the next phase of disabling North Korea's nuclear weapons program, which the United States hailed as comprehensive and detailed. The provisional agreement will now go back to the governments for approval, and negotiators will resume their talks here in a few days so the deal can be sealed, the US and other envoys said. No specifics of the agreement were released. "The joint statement was very comprehensive," US negotiator Christopher Hill told reporters, referring to the agreement outlined by China, which is hosting the talks.

#### Magnitude 7.1 quake in the Pacific near Guam

TOKYO-A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 occurred in the Pacific Ocean near the island of Guam, the Japan Meteorological Agency said Sunday. No injuries, damage or tsunami were immediately reported. The Hong Kong Observatory said the epicenter appeared to be about 350 km southsoutheast of Guam. The Japanese agency said the earthquake was centered near Guam, a US territory, and occurred at 11:09 a.m. Japan time. Japan's agency did not issue an official tsunami warning, but said there may be a chance of one near the epicenter.

AP

#### India remains outsourcing favorite, says survey

BANGALORE, India-India remains the favored technology outsourcing destination, an industry report said Sunday, amid concerns a rising rupee and soaring wages would blunt the country's competitive edge. A study by industry publication Global Services and investment advisory firm Tholons put the Indian cities of Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune at the top of a list of 15 emerging outsourcing destinations for global companies. Calcutta at number five and Chandigarh at number nine were the other two Indian locations on the list, which contained three Chinese and two Vietnamese cities as well. The three hot cities for outsourcing from China were Shanghai at number eight, Beijing at 10 and Shenzhen at 13. Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi were put at number six and number 12. Cebu in the Philippines came in at number four, the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo at seven, Cairo at 11, Buenos Aires at 14 and Sao Paulo at 15, the study's sponsors said in a statement released in Bangalore. The list is based on criteria such as scale and quality of workforce, financial infrastructure, risk environment and quality of life.

#### Experts at FDA in US urge firm action on child drugs

WASHINGTON-Safety experts for the Food and Drug Administration urged the agency on Friday to consider an outright ban on over-thecounter, multi-symptom cough and cold medicines for children under 6. The recommendation, in a 356-page safety review, is the clearest signal yet that the agency may take strong action against the roughly 800 popular medicines marketed in the United States under names like Toddler's Dimetapp, Triaminic Infant and Little Colds. The next step in the process will be a meeting of outside experts on Oct. 18 and 19 to examine the medicines' safety and offer recommendations to the agency. In the new safety review, the FDA's experts suggested that all "infant" cough and cold formulations be removed from the market, and that the droppers, cups and syringes included with products for children be standardized to reduce the risks of confusion and overdose.



Apply now! Call 631-8000 or 1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll-Free) or visit the nearest BDO branch or BDO On-site

COBY

erns and conditions apply. See fivers for details or DTI NCR Permit No. 4334 Series of 2007



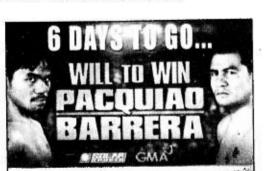
only SMART has the widest selection of prepaid handsets to satisfy your mobile needs. the latest mobile TV handsets,

For a better view of our latest showcase of cellphone offers, visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Get your prepaid handset from us and enjoy: All original battery & accessories • 15-day replacement warranty • 12-month service warranty.

ies and concerns, just access SIM Connect on your SMART menu (Text GET MENI) to 9888 to down www.smart.com.ph/corporate/brands/buddy vload the SIM Cor







Agad-agad direct Puwedeng hulugan ng up to Car Insurance 6 months pa! Suppling Kausap!

# Archers sew up win that matters most

# Trim Eagles to nail 2nd title slot

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT WAS THE BIGGEST WINning margin in the rivalry that more than lived up to its hype this season. And the win also turned out to be the biggest of them all.

(Araneta Coliseum) 3 p.m .--- Univ. of the East vs La Salle (Game 1, best-of-three Finals)

**GAMES THURSDAY** 

La Salle ended its rare five-game saga with arch rival Ateneo on top as the Green Archers turned back the Blue Eagles, 65-60, yesterday to clinch the last UAAP

Finals berth in front of a 23,000-strong sellout crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

"This is the only time that two is greater than three," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "They beat us three times (this season), but we beat them when it counted the most.'

La Salle senior guard Cholo Villanueva found the seams in the Ateneo defense, drilling in nine of his 13 points in the fourth quarter to keep the Archers in control.

"This is the 'welcome back' party for us," said Villanueva, referring to the Archers' impressive return to the Finals after serving a

one-year suspension last season. "Coach Franz said to just control the tempo of the game, make good stops and convert it into offense. It was all about controlling the

tempo of the game." But a more arduous road lies ahead as the Archers face the undefeated University of the East Warriors in the best-of-three championship series. Game 1 will kick off at 3 p.m. on

Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum. The title duel has its own interesting sidebar as Franz squares off with younger brother and UE mentor Dindo Pumaren.

"It's a long overdue series with Dindo," said Franz after nailing the second title slot in front of 23,319 fans, the biggest crowd ever recorded in Philippine basketball history.

Offense failed the Eagles at crunchtime as the Eagles shot an abysmal 20 percent-2 out of 10 field goal attempts-in the fourth quarter. But they stayed in the game by scoring 12 of their 17 markers in the final quarter from the foul line.

Pumaren said the Archers made sure to tighten their defensive screws in the closing

"This is one game where we really respond-

Mazda Hotline ~ 85-MAZDA (85-62932)

ed well playing defensively," he said. "The players tend to relax, but the players made sure that no way are we going to relax this time. We played smart down the stretch."

The Archers took off early in the fourth quarter with a pair of Villanueva layups sand-ARCHERS/ A29

TY Tang (left) and JV Casio celebrate the victory that brought the AUGUST DELA CRUZ Archers to the Finals.



When you get your hair back, you get your life back. Why settle for being bald when you can get back a full head of natural, thick hair? With Svenson's TRANSDERMAL COSMETIC RECONSTRUCTION (TCR) you'll be sure to get an effective, non-surgical,

permanent solution that will bring BEFORE back the hair you've lost. Seamless, transparent and bonded to your scalp, no one will suspect you had a little "help" because it just looks natural. TCR is so secure, it won't restrict your lifestyle at all. You'll look younger, be more confident and feel more attractive. Call Svenson today for a FREE consultation.



TOMAS MORATO 3/F CKB Center

BINONDO ALABANG

11/F Federal Tower 4/F Citibank-Frabelle
Building Building

CEBU

The scores: LA SALLE 65-Villanueva 13, Tang 12, Maierhofer 12, Casio 10, Malabes 5, Walsham 4, Ferdi-

clao 7, Al-Hussaini 6, Reyes 5, Long 4, Baldos 2, Escueta 2, Monfort 0, Laterre 0. Quarters: 16-14, 29-26, 48-43, 65-60

ATENEO 60-Arao 14, Tiu 10, Salamat 10, Ba-

nand 2, Cua 2, Mangahas 0, Co 0, Barua 0.

DEALERSHIP THAT OFFERS USED CAR VEHICLE WARRANTY EDSA AUTO EXCHANGE

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AT 199 EDSA Brgy. Wack Wack, Mandaluyong City Southbound before SEC and POEA CALL OR TEXT

727-1397 726-1205 09209037858 09228331441





18 MONTHS WARRANTY FOR ALL CARS TINT ROOM

3M, SOLARGARD, SUNGARD, RIKECOOL, PLATINUM, etc.

7280 Mayapis cor. Malugay St., San Antonio Vill., Makati City Tel. nos.: 817-8617 • 813-2338 • Cel. no.: 0917-8178617 Website: www.LAcaraccessories.com







www.mazda.com.ph

### Indelible Ink gobbles up rivals

CARMONA, CAVITE-INDELIble Ink ran away with the second leg of the Juvenile Fillies Stakes series yesterday after gobbling up the field early and breezing home under Jeffryl Zarate at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

The chestnut daughter of Best Of Luck out of Seaquin clocked 1 minute and 32 seconds for 1,500 meters.

Indelible Ink's quarter clocking of 18, 24', 23' and 26 destroyed the field, with coupler Anonymous, under Patty Dilema, nipping Love Story and Ferdinand Raquel for second about eight lengths behind.

The fifth straight win was worth P900,000 for owner Hermie Esguerra. And it sparked hopes of a potential Triple Crown champion this early.

"I don't want to think about the Triple Crown at this time," an indisposed Esquerra told the IN-Musong R. Castillo

#### SPORTSWATCH **PCAP** derby unfolds

THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIation of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby series gets underway today at Makati Coliseum with some 80 matches backed by B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador. Efren Canlas of Pampanga (Bacolor Gold) topped the first leg on Sept. 5 while Ting Arioza of Bicol (Arioza Batzam) won the second on Sept. 1).

#### P2.5M pot in SJC tilt

THE SM FARMS OPEN 6-STAG derby, with P2.5 million at stake, starts today at San Juan Coliseum with some 80 fights. The six-day stagfest (Oct. 1, 3, 6, 8, 10 and 13 ) is hosted by Sam Mendoza, Boy Torres and Doc Jovy and supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Today's 3-stag elims dangles a day-prize of P80,000 for 3-pointers.

# Pacquiao approval rating plummets

#### By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES-HOTLY FAVORED MANNY PACquiao prepared to shift to war mode yesterday, a full week before his big battle in Las Vegas, but the Sportsbook here registered a considerable dip in his bet approval rating.

Pacquiao's windy workman's hair is set to be trimmed today, the goatee he had grown in training shaven, but there were contrasting speculations on why the enormous odds favoring him to repeat over Marco Barrera slid.

From a whopping minus-350, it's down to minus-290, meaning you'd need to wager \$290 for a possible return of only \$100.

Barrera, on the other hand, is plus-230, a \$100 bet yielding \$230.

One guess on why adventurous fight fans, including Mexicans, have opted to suddenly pull their bet on the Pacman were well-founded reports on his defensive lapses, as shown in his sparring.



Twenty-one-year-old Daniel Cervantes, an alternate in the 2004 Mexico Olympi c team, banged it up again with Pacquiao yesterday and repeated his earlier claim that the RP boxing superhero was not exactly untouchable.

"I got him again several times, but today is my best day so far," claimed the

good-looking fighter with a 10-0 record. Cervantes, who finished his chore pretty fired-up, said he felt Pacquiao even got mad at one point when he tagged him with good head shots.

Pacquiao, who has totalled more than 130 rounds of sparring, closes the drill with a final session Monday.

Another guess on why Pacquiao has lost bet backing was the incisive primer shown by HBO after the

classic Taylor-Pavlik championship bout from Atlantic City yesterday.

There was a portion in the primer that had Freddie Roach flatly denying Pacquiao's claim that his sudden departure from here to train in Cebu early last month, was pre-planned.

What, however, stood out in the presentation were the distractions Pacquiao had to undergo, a total opposite of Barrera's placid training in Guadalajara.

Pacquiao was to hear mass Sunday and receive departure blessings at the Christ the King church off Rossmore here, a kilometer from Wild Card.

He got a merry, if sometimes wild, send-off from adoring fans at the end of his workout yesterday.

"We did it only twice," Roach later told the IN-QUIRER of the special crushing combination-a spear and slash—which they have been trying to perfect and use as the main weapon against Barrera.

There was hardly an alarm inside Team Pacquiao over the shift of betting preferences, as specified in the website bodog.com.

## Super ready Pacman needs big luck

LOS ANGELES-VETERAN ACTOR Eddie Gutierrez, trim, tall and handsome in a leather jacket, visited the Wild Card gym on Friday for Manny Pacquiao's training and had some female heads turning.

He said he talked to Pacquiao the previous evening to ask about his preparedness.

"Ready? Super, super ready," Pacquiao exclaimed.

Gutierrez, together with his wife Annabelle Rama, was the first in a slew of celebrities and politicians expected to trek to Las Vegas to cheer for the Pacman.

He said his friend Rudy Fernandez should be here no later than Sunday.

Chavit Singson should be heading for Vegas anytime this week.

Wakee Salud, whose new gym in Cebu Pacman used in his training, checked in at Vagabond Inn, Pacquiao's former quarter, Friday.

Rod Nazario, mainly responsible for launching Pacquiao's career from Wild Card, is due Wednesday.

But the biggest bulk of Pacquiao rooters will come from various US cities, with others planing in from BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

the Carribean and South America.

Of course, the main aim of their trip is to witness Pacquiao win, and bask in the predicted victory.

But, mind you, don't these footloose fans also bother to bring with them some sort of a charm to the fight site?

Maybe yes, maybe no.

Some would say there's no need anymore for a good-luck item because all Pacquiao has to do is show up on fight night.

They would say Barrera is so washed up he would be lucky to still be standing by the 8th round.

Yes, it has come to that wild point when Pacman fanatics have long buried and forgotten the possibility of a Pacquiao loss on Oct. 6.

OK, these diehards cannot be accused of deluding themselves be-

cause a reality check would show must open the envelop only in the how Pacquiao and Barrera went separate ways since their first meeting in November 2003, won by the RP hero by an 11th-round knockout.

Super, super ready. Yes, but still there's this one Pacman admirer who went out of his way to wish the great Pinoy warrior good luck.

This happened late Friday at the Mayflower restaurant, a Pacquiao favorite in Chinatown.

Salud herded some members of Team Pacquiao to the place where they had a sumptuous lauriat.

What a great night of feasting ahead of the big fight.

Now, as they prepared for a burpy exit, the owner of the place returned to the cash register to retrieve the amount paid for the feast.

This totalled \$70, hefty discount included.

The owner then put the dollar bills inside a red, crispy Chinese envelop with golden signs, folded the thing and asked Jojo Sta. Theresa, a Pacman close-in aide formerly with Wakee Salud, to give it to Pacquiao.

Hold it, the owner said, Manny

dugout on fight night.

So what will Pacquiao do with a measly \$70, when he parts away daily with no less than \$500 for each lunch at the Nats Thai restaurant near Wild Card?

Now, don't tell that to Señor Barrera. Whatever luck there's left in the boxing, Barrera would most likely advise, the Pacman must scoop up.

You see, there's this prognosis that the separate paths Barrera and Pacquiao have taken since their last fight could well foretell the directions the rematch would take.

The experts may indeed be right. Pacquiao has since improved vastly while Barrera has gone nowhere.

Read on please. Last heard, Barrera was claiming this second fight would never be an easy one for Pacquiao. Never.

He said it will be a totally different, vastly prepared Barrera who will report for war at the Mandalay Bay Resort/Casino next Saturday.

And only \$70 worth of luck, based on the training trends in both camps, may not be enough.



TSHOMLEE Go (main photo) his Egyptian foe. Inset; Go is fl

### Chinese d

A TOURNAMENT-RECORD win in the second round pr last hurrah for Efren "Bat Francisco "Django" Bustar 2007 PartyPoker.net World

The defending champion ed Filipinos found more th in the eight-ranked Chin. Hewen and Fu Jianbo Satur in the biggest upset of the round at the Outland Night dam, the Netherlands.

After winning the lag the to produce the kind of ma mance that allowed them to



#### SEE THEM AT YOUR NEAREST KIA DEALERSHIP NOW!

KIA AUTHORIZED DEALERS / SALES GUTLETS

METRO MANILA GREENHILLS Tel. 744-4258-PASIG Tel 645-3855 loc. 23-ESGUERRA Tel. 411-1253-PASAY Tel. 652-1552 to 58-QUIRINO AVENUE Tel 564-7872-SHAW Tel 534-4806-NOVALICHES Tel 453-6862-MARIKINA Tel. 682-8536-ANTIPOLO Telefax 695-1457-BINONDO Tel. 256-2037-38-LIBIS Tel. 706-0665-CUBAO Tel. 421-1719-7 (046)416-1242-BULACAN Tel. (044)692-0273-PAMPANGA Tel. (045)961-1485 to 85-PANGASINAN Tel. (075)517-3988-PALAWAN Tel. (052)481-1533 VISAYAS ILOILO Tel. (033)329-2222-BACOLOD Tel. (034)434-6079-CEBU CITY Tel. (032)233-1386-MANDAUE CITY Tel. (063)221-0574-CAGAYAN DE ORO Tel. (088)856-3557-DAVAO Tel. (082)234-0057 to 58-GENERAL SANTOS CITY Tels. (063)302-8888-DIPOLOG Tels. (0918)8087000





anxiously awaits the call for a sudden death match with anked by coaches Roberto Cruz (left) and Rocky Samson.

# Audacious Go bags Olympic t'kwondo slot

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND-TSHOMLEE Go managed to beat a path to Beijing on Saturday, but Mary Antoinette Rivero got lost along the way.

Go survived a heavy draw strewn with Olympic, World and Asian champions to snag a bronze medal while Rivero was waylaid by a Croatian in her march to the semifinals of the World Taekwondo Championships here.

"Lahat na po ng santo tinawag ko (I called all the saints)," said the 26-year-old Go, while anxiously waiting for the referee to declare who goes to next year's Beijing Olympics following his sudden-death duel with Egyptian dynamo Tamer Salah Bayoumi in the battle for the bronze medal in the 58kg match.

The University of Santo Tomas education graduate jumped with joy when the referee raised his hand while the handful of Filipinos here cheered him on at the M.E.N. Arena.

That capped his six-fight odyssey in the



BATA Reyes covers his face in shame after missing a shot against the Chinese as Django Bustamante consoles him.

world meet where he had to get through a Yemeni, a Filipino representing Denmark and a World Cup and Asian champ from Thailand.

He lost in the semifinals, though, via a referee-stopped-contest 7-0 rout to eventual champion Chu Mu-ven of Chinese Taipei, the reigning Olympic champ who booted out two-time world titlist Juan Antonio Ramos of Spain.

Go and Bayoumi first fought to a 1-1 deadlock in their sudden-death clash. After both failed to score in the two-minute second extension, the corner referees decided the victor.

The 19-year-old Rivero lost in another sudden-death to Sandra Saric of Croatia, who booked the Olympic ticket in the -67kg.

Rivero had earlier bundled out Bosnia and Herzegovina's Ivona Brnic, 2-0, and Ukraine's Cherkun Olga, 5-1, to reach the quarterfinals.

Alexander Briones gets going in the men's -80kg Sunday. Kathleen Eunice Alora bowed out in the first round of the -49kg last Friday.

Go first demolished Yemen's Akram Ahmed Abdullah, 4-1, then took a walkover against Iraq's Ahmed Kasim Kadim to advance against Philip Reyes of Denmark whom he also beat.

The Filipino Southeast Asian Games champion and Asian Games silver medal winner next nailed a place in the semifinals by beating Thai favorite Thai Khawlaor Chutchawal, 2-1.

A TEARFUL Tony Lascuña (right) embraces Gerald Rosales who canned the decisive birdie putt on the last hole.

# Last-hole bird does it for Rosales, Lascuña

ipino duo of Tony Lascuña and Gerald Rosales birdied the final hole to salvage a one-under-par 71 Sunday and earn the fifth and final ticket to next month's Omega Mission Hills World Cup by the slimmest of margins.

Lascuña and Rosales pulled off the courageous feat on the 18th hole of Kota Permai Golf and Country Club as they pipped the Malaysian and Singaporean pairs a single stroke.

The Filipinos' nail-biting finish in the Fortis Challenge, nearly overshadowed the victory of Thai hotshots Thongchai Jaidee and Prayad Marksaeng.

The Thais fired a final-round

KUALA LUMPUR-THE FIL- 64 in the foursomes to finish with a 30-under-par 258 total, three shots clear of the Netherlands' Maarten Lafeber and Robert-Jan Derksen (67).

With the top five teams qualifying for the World Cup, New Zealand's Richard Lee and Stephen Scahill claimed third with a 67, while South Koreans Lee Sung and Lee Seung-ho finished fourth after a 69.

Lascuña and Rosales survived a double bogey scare on the 16th hole after finding the water to finish fifth on 268. A glorious chip from a difficult lie by Lascuña on the 18th set Rosales up for a short birdie putt.

Asian Tour News

### ethrone Bata, Django

wed to be the " Reyes and nante in the Cup of Pool. and top-seedn their match .team of Li lay, losing 9-6

ilipinos failed sterful perfor-

-quarterfinal

lub in Rotter-

WHITEWASH Croatia, 8-0, in the round of 16 after they started with an 8-6 win over Scotland. The Chinese, who had earlier beaten

South Africa and France, advanced against Japan's Satoshi Kawabata and Naoyuki Oi, who eliminated Singapore's Chang Ken Kwan and Toh Lian Han, 9-5.

The other semifinal encounter pits Canada, represented by Fil-Canadian Edwin Montal and Alain Martel, against Finland's Mika Immonen and Markus Juva.

The Canadians ousted Belgium's Noel Bruynooghe and Serge Das, 9-4, while the Finns booted out Switzerland's Marco score shut out Tschudi and Dimitri Jungo, also 9-4.

Archers nail win that matters .

biggest lead of the game, 55-46, with 5:30 minutes left. Eric Salamat ended the Ateneo drought with a three-point play, but Villanueva responded 33 seconds later

with a triple on top of the key to push the gap back to nine, 58-49. The Eagles came up with one last

wiching a TY Tang triple for the gasp as rookie center Nonoy Baclao surprisingly nailed a triple to trim the margin by a basket, 62-60, with 13.6 seconds left.

But the rally proved futile as JV Casio and Rico Maierhofer converted three of their four foul shots to cushion the Archers' lead in the last 11 sec-

"There's nothing to be ashamed of," said Ateneo coach Norman Black, who emerged from the dugout more than an hour after the game. "As far as I can remember, you guys didn't even give us a chance to reach this far."

Outside the coliseum, scalpers also had a field day with patron tickets going ridiculously high at P6,000 apiece.



AANDALUYONG Tel. 531-4631 to 36+NEW MANILA Tel. 722-0932 to 34+MANILABAY Tel. 556-1494-95+QUEZON AVE. Tel. 743-6593+MAKATI Tel. 815-1178+TAYTAY Telefax 669-1723+SUCAT Tel. 820-1542LUZON BATANGAS Tel. (043)778-4214 to 16+STA. ROSA Telefax (049)544-0387+DASMARIÑAS Tels

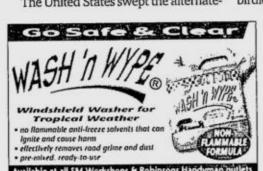


TIGER Woods hits from a bunker on the 13th hole during his four-ball match at the Presidents Cup golf tournament at the Royal Montreal Golf Club.

# Americans near victory

MONTREAL—PHIL MICKELSON shot matches in the crisp morning, then weekend arrived, and only the greatest the Presidents Cup, and their first in any showed Woody Austin how to stay dry, and the Americans blew the International team out of the water Saturday in the Presidents Cup to build the largest lead in seven years.

The United States swept the alternate- birdie their last two holes to steal a half-



turned back an International rally with one of its own to split the afternoon fourballs and build a 14 1/2-7 1/2 lead going into the 12 singles matches Sunday.

Mickelson and Austin combined to

point, Tiger Woods recorded two blowouts with different partners, and Stewart Cink made all the clutch putts to turn a loss into another point that filled the scoreboard with US red numbers.

It now appears that for the second time in three weeks, the Sunday chase for a cup will be anticlimactic. Woods wrapped up the FedEx Cup at East Lake before the

comeback in Presidents Cup history will keep this event from turning into a snoozer at Royal Montreal.

"It's not over," International captain Gary Player said. "But things don't look too good. The egg is not sunny-side up." Indeed, the International squad looked fried.

Mike Weir and Ernie Els had the only easy time in the afternoon and the deflating day ended with Vijay Singh curling in a 4-foot par putt that kept another International team from a collapse.

US captain Jack Nicklaus nodded his head and clapped his hands with each point moving the Americans closer to their first outright victory on the road in

cup since winning the Ryder Cup at The Belfry in 1993.

Mickelson provided the most entertaining moment when his ball caromed off the hill and into a shallow spot in the water left of the 15th green. Austin, his partner in the fourball match, walked over to look at the situation and shrugged his shoulders as if to say, "Your turn to give it a try." A day earlier, Austin lost his balance trying such a shot and wound up face-first in the water.

Mickelson borrowed the size-14 sneaker from his caddie to put on his left foot and go into the water. The ball turnbled back into the hazard, but at least Lefty didn't take the fall. AP

# Anand bags chess world title anew

MEXICO CITY—INDIA'S VISHWANATHAN Anand was crowned world champion of chess Saturday as he won the marathon tournament in Mexico City that brought together eight of the game's best players.

Known as the "Tiger from Madras, Anand, 37, replaced Vladimir Kramnik of Russia as champion, winning the tournament on points after tying a match with Hungarian Peter Leko on the 14th day of the contest.

"I enjoy this new feeling of being world champion," he said. "I am just very happy with my game, we had a good team, I felt very well, my second (coach) helped me (with) a lot of interesting ideas, everything clicked."

Kramnik, who saw the championship slip

from his gasp on Friday after a tie, finished in second followed by Israeli Boris Gelfand.

Anand, learned to play chess at the age of six, had previously won the world championship in 2000, but the achievement was valued less since at the time the chess world

was split between two rival world titles. Anand said both victories were equally sweet. "For me it is not different or more im-

portant than the 2000 title, for me they are

both lovely memories," he said Saturday. AFP



ANAND

# Hamilton triumphs

OYAMA, JAPAN-LEWIS HAMILton won a wet-and-wild Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday to move to the verge of the Formula One title with two races to go after his main rival and McLaren teammate Fernando Alonso crashed out of the race.

Heikki Kovalainen of Renault was second and Ferrari's Kimi affected race that started behind the pace car and had spins, bumps and crashes throughout its

Hamilton now has a 12-point lead in the drivers stand-

ings-107-95. He can win the world title in his rookie season at China next week if he finishes with at least an 11-point lead over defending champion Alonso.

Alonso can still win the title but needs a lot of luck.

His luck deserted him at the Fuji Speedway when he spun and hit the wall hard on the 42nd lap. Raikkonen finished third in a rain His car stopped in the middle of the track with debris around him. The Spaniard was helped out of the car and stayed behind a fence for a few laps to contemplate what happened before leaving the scene of the accident.

# SAMA-SAMA **BUONG BARKADA!**

OTHER SAN MIGUEL OKTOBERFEST PARTIES

**OCTOBER 5 OCTOBER 6** 

OCTOBER 12 - 13 SSS Lot

**OCTOBER 19 OCTOBER 20** 

**Blue Wave People's Center** Boulevard Park 88

**Tomas Morato Dumangas, Iloilo** Otis Mall Parking Lot Macapagal Avenue, Metro Manila **Tacloban City Dipolog City** Cebu City Zamboanga City (October 13 only) **Quezon City Iloilo City Butuan City** 



# Purefoods shops for point guard, eyes Cablay

By Musong R. Castillo

PUREFOODS, AFTER LOSING Paul Artadi to Barangay Ginebra, is still shopping around for a back-up point guard, hoping to be able to come to terms with Red Bull for Brandon Cablay in time for the Oct. 14 opening of the PBA Philippine Cup.

With Roger Yap starting at the point and rookie free agent Chico Lanete coming the 6-foot-9 De Ocampo. off the bench, the Purefoods coaching staff is looking to lure the Fil-Am Cablay from Dulay completed the Welcoat Red Bull through a trade.

Cablay, once the Slam term deals over the weekend. Dunk King, was traded to the Barako as part of the Larry Fonacier deal.

But Red Bull hasn't signed Cablay with just two weeks left before the season start, hoping to get a better deal for the high-flying playmaker.

Purefoods dealt away Artadi after a spat between the player and coach Ryan Gre-

gorio. Meanwhile, a trade that would have seen Yancy de Ocampo going back to his amateur team Welcoat did not materialize.

The Dragons had tried offering veteran acquisition Nic Belasco to Talk 'N Text, which declined and stuck it out with

In another development, Estong Ballesteros and Don roster after signing short-

The Philippine Cup opens next Sunday with San Miguel, the runner-up last year, colliding with a soupedup Air21 side in the only game scheduled after technoinspired opening ceremonies at 4:30 p.m.

### Porras, Dapudong down Indons

GLENN PORRAS AND EDREN DApudong of the Braveheart Boxing Stable retained their respective WBO Asia Pacific Youth titles with contrasting wins over their Indonesian foes Saturday night at the lampacked Mlang Gym in Mlang, North Cotabato, Porras started strong early but settled for a unanimous decision win over Rivo Rengkung. Dapudong, however, looked brilliant in stopping the

stocky Jack Amisa with a big right for a third-round technical knockout win. Meanwhile, Apol Suico of the Rex "Wakee" Salud Stable was knocked out in the first round by Moruti Mthalane in their fight for the vacant WBC International flyweight title at the Park Station in Johannesburg, South Africa. Suico's loss was the third for RWS

in just a span of two weeks. Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor



# Website: www.inquirer.net/business

Editor Raul O. Marcelo . Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph



Enjoy the Best First Class Service

KOREAN AIR Reservation Center, Manila: 893-4909

in the World

# Market turnover hits P1T

### Infra work seen to peak in 3 yrs

THE CONSTRUCtion sector in three to five years will experience a boom, helped on by low inflation levels and an expanding real estate sector, according to property consultant CB Richard Ellis Philippines Inc.

Inflation, or the rise in prices of goods and services, greatly affects the material and labor costs. Inflation has fallen to single digit-levels, with the lowest rate recorded at 2.2 percent in March 2007.

A real estate boom usually precedes a construction boom, ensuring that demand will sustain the latter.

The real estate boom was perceived to have started in 2005, largely due to a growing outsourcing industry that has spurred demand for office spaces, very low interest rates on housing loans, and an increasing appetite for homes among overseas Filipino workers.

The continuous rise in office space take-up, 70 percent of which come from business process outsourcing (BPO) firms, have spurred office developers to start building again since 2006, albeit at more cautious manner, such as by pre-leasing the space before projects are completed, said Victor Asuncion, CBRE director for Global Research and Consultancy Services.

"The macroeconomic fundamentals are strong, and so is BPO demand," added Rick Santos, CBRE chair.

The property consultant said office building supply this year will reach 232,180 square meters, and will grow to 330,425 square meters in 2008 based on commitments by certain firms.

In 2009, commitments to build office space have reached a total of 105,909 square meters.

On the other hand, demand for office space is seen at 220,000 square meters in 2007, almost INFRA/B6

## PSE marks 80-year milestone with record value

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S ANNUAL VALUE turnover in the first nine months hit a record P1 trillion—a landmark in the PSE's 80-year history.

PSE records showed that value turnover reached P1.007 trillion P145.4 billion in 2003; jumped to from January to September this year, or 177 percent higher than the P363.7-billion posted during the same period last year. This is also 76 percent more than the P572.63-billion total for the whole of 2006.

"We consider this a major milestone because, in the 80-year history of our stock market, annual turnover had never before breached the P1-trillion level," PSE president Francis Lim said in a statement.

Annual value turnover reached P206.6 billion in 2004; and further surged to P383.52 billion in

Daily average turnover jumped to P5.41 billion from January to September this year, or 178.4 percent more than the P1.94-billion level for the same nine-month period last year, and 133.6 percent the whole of 2006.

"The unprecedented surge in value turnover so far this year reflects the growing enthusiasm of

investors, including foreign groups, to jump into our stock market," Lim said. "This is a clear vote of confidence in our mar-

Based on PSE data, the industrial sector grabbed the biggest share of value turnover with P224.03 billion for the first nine months of the year.

The property sector came in second with P219.13 billion; services sector, P191.57 billion; holding firms sector, P160.34 billion; financial sector, P143.74 billion; and the mining and oil sector, P68.29 billion.

Firms in the SME (small- and bigger than the P2.32 billion for medium-sized enterprise) board accounted for P148.22 million of value turnover for the first nine months of the year.

MARKET/B6

BSP airs caution over surge in money supply

# Currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

#### STOCK MARKET

#### Investors await MB key rate decision PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

STOCK MARKET INVESTORS ARE anxiously waiting for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' monetary board meeting on Oct. 4, when authorities will decide whether or not they will cut key interest rates, according to AB Capital Securities.

10 27 21 24 25 26 27 26 EF

(See stock market report on Page B4) "The sentiment is that the BSP

will cut their rates," AB Capital said in a weekly note. "The larger than expected rate cut of the US Federal Reserve (of 50 basis points) gives [the BSP] the opportunity to do so. Furthermore, inflation levels in September are not expected to be high."

The brokerage firm said a rate cut may spark a rally in the local bourse, with property shares standing to benefit the most.

INVESTORS/B5

#### IN THIS ISSUE

#### BSP plan to rein in losses sought /B3

#### BIR suspends VAT rule on refined sugar sales /B6

#### For Microtel Inns, maiden offer may be in the works /B7

### By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has expressed caution over a potential surge in money supply in the fourth quarter and escalating oil prices-the two major risk factors to its inflation outlook-ahead of its next interest rate setting on Oct. 4.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters on Friday that, while the inflation interest rate," Tetangco said.

environment remained benign, the central bank "would have to be careful in assessing the balance of risks" in their outlook.

"These risks would include the growth in domestic liquidity, which we need to contain, and as the BOP (balance of payments) continues to be in surplus, we need to make sure that the liquidity in the system is

Also, food prices around the world are rising as unpredictable weather is seen to affect production, the BSP chief said.

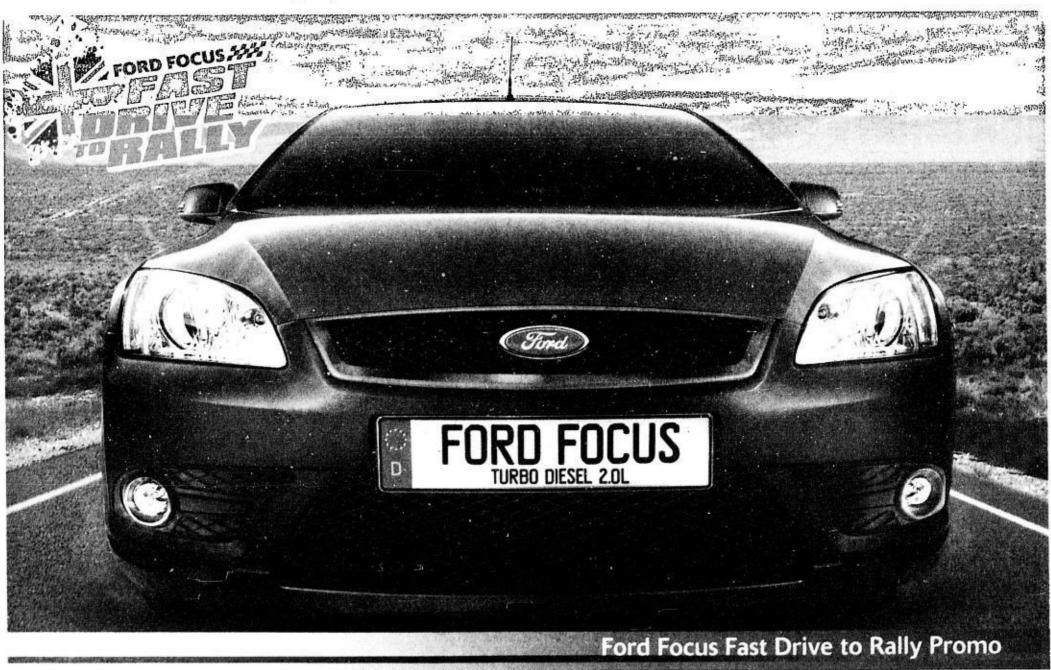
In a separate interview Friday night, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo aired his concern over rising oil prices and the expansion of broad money supply.

"Oil prices continue to be consistent with low and stable very high and that could have ramifications on the consumer

basket, especially transport," Guinigundo said. "Primary commodities like food, vegetables and meat products ... have to be transported."

If the market expects prices of oil products to go up, that may lead to "adverse inflation expectations, and that's something that we need to be watchful of," he added.

The BSP has put in place mea-



The fastest way to get to Great Britain is here. Test drive any Ford Focus including the surprisingly fast Turbo Diesel before October 31, 2007 and get a chance to win an all expense paid trip to watch the last and most exciting World Rally Championship race in Wales, Great Britain live from November 30 to December 2, 2007. Call 889-FORD (3673) to schedule your test drive.

ford.com.ph

Make Every Day Exciting

Trurk Lores 842-3681 / 842-4630 Eur Na. 807-4430 - Ford Balansawak, Tsurk Lore 937-9648, Eur No. 932-9581 - Ford Commonwealth, Fel Nos. 952-9110, 952-9140 - Ford Rich Nos. 952-9440 - Ford EDSA Greenbills. Tel Nos. 744-2222, Eur Nos. 723-6311 - Ford EDSA Service Control 



#### What matters most?

My bank offers all kinds of solutions, whether at home or at work.

My bank answers all my needs, whether here or abroad.

My bank provides all kinds of services that are personalized, hassle-free and complete.

My bank is Maybank.



#### 32 BUSINESS Napocor shuns debt market this year

# Privatization proceeds boost company finances

#### By Abigail L. Ho

BUOYED BY PROceeds from its privatization and by a reduction in its operating expenses, the state-run National

Power Corp. is not fraining from borexpected to take out rowing any funds any more loans for the rest of the year.

Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said the state firm has succeeded in re-

· Stop arthritis in 5 minutes

Ideal for rheumatism, gout and

Also for stroke, paralysis therapy

SM HORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326

FOR INQUIRIES

OFFICE EQUIPMENTS REPAIR Present this coupon and avail of a ALL BRANDS, ALL MODELS

FAX MACHINES, PRINTERS, MONITORS, CALCULATORS, TYPEWRITERS & OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENTS DISCOUNT

· Handy and battery operated

SM MEGAMALL

5th Fir., Bidg. A 635-0436

SM FAIRUIEW Bosoment 418-7540

· No pills. No side effects

with already 10 months of the year having gone by, mainly due to the successful privatization of its assets by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities

Management Corp. "To date, the internally generated revenues of Napocor can take care of its operations," he said in a briefing Fri-

He explained that the sale of some of Napocor's assets to the private sector had helped reduce its operating expenses. The proceeds from these privatized

hand, had helped trim the company's debts.

Some buyers, like SN Aboitiz Power Inc., had even advanced their payments for the plants, opting to pay immediately instead of going through the seven-year usual amortization peri-

"I hope buyers of the other plants will also advance their payments while the is strong [against] the dollar," he said.

od, he said.

"Based on the terms of reference [for the plants], 60-percent [balance] will be paid with a doubledigit interest rate," further ex-"Right plained. now, you can borrow at a single-digit interest rate, so it's cheaper to pay a lump sum now and

plants, on the other just find cheaper financing elsewhere to pay for the full bid offer."

The decision whether or not to borrow, however, would still be for PSALM to make, he said.

"As submitted to Congress, if the worst case happens, our estimated level of borrowing will be \$500 million to \$700 million. But that's just an estimate. For 2007, we said we'd need to borrow \$400 million to \$500 million. As of this time, we have yet to borrow. And I leave it now up to PSALM if they want to borrow," he added.

In an earlier interview, PSALM president and chief executive Jose Ibazeta said all privatization proceeds would be used to Napocor's debts.



P10.09 per ID

Amazing 4-in-1 color copier lets you "do-it-yourself" all printing needs.

B/W Business Letter

3% Coverage

80% Coverage

THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O DocuPrint C525A DocuPrint C2090FS Color Multi-function Copier Color Laser Printer

Distributed by: AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

723-0601 to 12 - Fax 723-7951

Call us for free estimate on printing cost of your material.

1226,000

THE DOCKMENT COMPANY FUJI XER®X



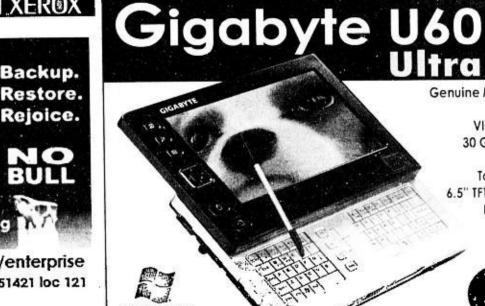
FUJI XEROX

Docuprint C2000 FS

solution for computers running Windows and Linux



http://www.acronis.com.sg/enterprise Touch Solutions Inc. Tel. No.: 7051421 loc 121



Ultra Mobile PC

buy computers online www.buyqube.com

Genuine Microsoft®Windows XP Home®Vista Support VIA® Esther Mobile Technology VIA Esther ULV C7-M / Wi-fi / Bluetooth 30 GB Hard Drive / USB Port / Card Reader DDR2-533 768MB on board Touch screen with QWERTY keyboard 6.5" TFT-LCD WVGA, 800x480, with LED backlight Integrated 300K Pixel Web Camera Dimension: 190\*120.8\*28.3 mm Weight: 740g Php39,999 exclusively at: (02)4107823

(@c)50 (032) 412-4404/ 412-4442 D(p)xio (082) 227-5943 My (3/0920-9001230 (U) 0922-4106849



MACHINES, INC HEAD OFFICE 1465 Gosten Burlang, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City (BESIDE KAMUNING BRIDGE CEBU

Espertu Busting Gen Maximm Ave Cebu C Tel. (032) 2336711 to 16 Fax: (032) 2336718 or 25 GRADETAN" Door 2 Lua 9-dg Quillio Ave Cor J P Lourel St Davido City Tel.(082) 2270321-23 Fax.(082) 2270321

AUTHORIZED DEALERS WESTERN MARKETING CORP. Und 002 A Lower ground, BLDG A SM Megamak Mandaloyong City WESTERN GRAND CENTRAL CO. asay Road Store Total Paras City

SC-P89.950

WESTERN HOME APPLIANCE CO. 31 ever Sonor # 3059 A-Festival Mali Alabung San Juan MM Tel.# 722-6970

EJEL CRIS TRADING

3888 or TE FAITN SQUARE

OFFICEMAN INC. 429 Gurran Parodes St., Binondo, Manka Tel.#245-1217 to 18 XENTROX SOLUTIONS, INC. Emailed Place Blog , 604 Shire Divid Kepnstyo Pasig City Tel.# 637-6741/ 637-6437

LITANY COMMERCIAL UNIT 110° BIT AFTE ROYGE MOTHER Boxogras SI Pasay City Tel.# 530-3486 / 4954

Set up your own MI Business!

The Prospects & Challenges of Selling up a MT Business in Today's Environment Know the components in setting up an MT Business and the real situation of the MT Business in the Philippines today

AZA ENTERPRISES Hin Statistic diag #14 Quezon Avid O C Tel,# 412-8397 to 98

SKY COMPUTER & OFFICE SUPPLIES 1428 Buntang St. Tours Martin

FIVE STALLON TRAD 267 San Vicento St. Binondo, Misnis

Tel.8 243-4556 to 57

RABSONS BUSINESS SYSTEM PRESS CLUB Blog A Velez cor A Luna Six. PANTHERTECH TRADING 3F ERM Bidg 5 1663 3# ERM Bldg 8, 1693 Evangelista St., Bangson Makab City Tel.# 751-4308 Cngs, an Do Oto City (068) 857- 5795 , 857- 6308 MAITILINK + SYSTEMS, INC Use 401 Ust AS Cordo for G Militar SI Tat Ave Malate MI Tel. 526-2120 to 22 Fax. 520-0906 MICRONICS MARKETING Persy Blad Overgupon City. Tel.#(075)522-1688 BARRING OLYMPIA SALES B SERVICES, INC. IZ 15 214 Hund, Queton HA

SHREDS CREDIT CARDS & CD

For Sales & Service

CA COPY & COMPUTER SALE: 10" O Are As 12 one Crit Tels(078) 522-1688

TARILIA ENTERPRISES G. Adieny Gidg Bondacio Tel.#(075) 522-1688

# he search is on for the PRDYOUNG MARKET MASTERS AWARDS Úmma

Who will be the Filipino youth's role model and inspiration in the field of marketing? Inspire the youth with the young masters of the game. Nominate your best candidate now!

- \* Open to Filipino citizens, 35 years young and below (before the end of the year of nomination)
- \* With at least 2 full years of company service at the time of nomination
- \* With cutting edge leadership and marketing savvy

Submission of entries is from September 29, 2007 up to October 30, 2007 only. Visit our website at www.youngmarketmasters.com. Download an application form or nominate online. You can also take a look at the movers and shakers in marketing at last year's awards.



Official Media Partners:

120011313

INQUIRER.net 4.

Officially Endorsed By:

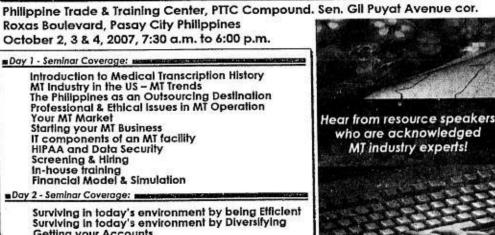
Official

Research

Platinum Sponsor: **ABENSON** 



Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. Helping your marketing and sales teams soar! #14 Ilang-ilang St., GF Waters Center, New Manila, Quezon City 1112 www.mansmith.net



**Getting your Accounts** 

 Day 3 - Seminar Coverage: MT Facility Site Visit

SEMINAR FEE: Full Seminar - P15,000.00 - 3 days - inclusive of meals, snacks seminar materials, sertificate 8 snuttle service for the site visit Day 2 only - P 8,000.00 - I day inclusive of meets, snacks

This seminar is being sponsored by the Medical Transcription Industry Association of the Philippines, Inc. Improve your MIT Operational





To register, please contact Raymund

For information, log on to MIIAPI website

Email: seminar@mtlapi.com Phone: (02) 638-2034

Fax: (02) 631-3566

mobile: 0918-5364388

0/47/03 FDF2-dWYH235748

### BUSINESS

# BSP plan to rein in losses sought bitdefender

# Central bank's coffers bled by effort to contain inflation

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), whose expenses have risen in recent months amid efforts to mop up excess liquidity in the financial system, will be asked to state its action plan on how to address its sudden slippage into a huge budget deficit.

A ranking official from the Department of Finance, tasked to monitor financial performance of state-owned firms, said the BSP's deficit was a drag to the fiscal standing of the entire public sector.

In the first half, the BSP posted a deficit of P31.47 billion, a stark reversal from the P11.259 billion in surplus registered in the same period last year.

The BSP's deficit was only P9.5 billion lower than the P40.98-billion deficit of the national government during the period.

Fortunately, many government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) registered surpluses in the first six months and turned around from the deficits they posted in the previous years, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

If not for that, he added, the public sector's fiscal position would have worsened because of the BSP's slippage.

The DOF earlier reported that the entire public sector registered a combined surplus of P24 billion in the first half, marking a 79percent increase from that a year ago.

This was boosted largely by the P32.68 billion in combined surpluses of GOCCs, the P30.72 billion of social security institutions, the P31 billion of local government units and the P5 billion of government financial institutions.

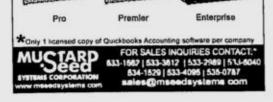
The surpluses, however, were partly dragged down by the deficits of the BSP and the national government.

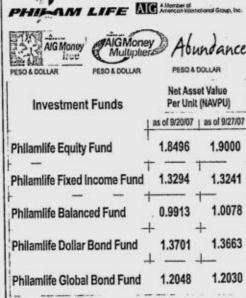
"[The DOF will ask what the BSP intends to do about the deficit," said the DOF official. The source said the goal of improving the country's fiscal condition does not only cover the national government but the entire public sector.

The BSP implemented several measures in the first half to curb growth in domestic liquidity, which monetary officials said was likely to cause an accelerated inflation if not properly addressed.

The growing liquidity was attributed to the increase in remittances from overseas Filipino workers and the rise in foreign portfolio and direct investments.







For more details please call (02) 528-2028 or go to www.ephili Fund prices are net of transaction costs. These exvestment funds are specific for valuable life insurant contracts and are not concerned wadural funds. Life courses products are negotiate by the Insuran Commission Past performance is not indicative of future results. Our most ment management sortices has to a concept of measurests, each of whost construction in value in an invention is order as the wind to measure any noger back the bid amount organity, invested. The between different types of instruments. For example, for measurests making report that their in which the prototion is decommanded changes in the size of estimating measurests, and consequently their values of the prototion to go up or down in the or purption the case on measurests or concessions may be very high (mountaing position) as as the value of such an investment may fall subdenly and subdensibly in missing prospection measurest must rely on their own examplation of the mission and color and most processing measurest and protocolor in examplation of the mission and color and in the color of the mission and color of the c

Although increasing investments and remittances have the desired effect of raising income, they can also cause faster growth in consumer prices.

To mop up excess cash in the system, the BSP encouraged GOCCs to deposit more of

their funds to the central bank by offering attractive interest rates. Yields on special depositoaccounts of GOCCs are higher than regular interest rates.

The BSP also allowed trust departments of banks to directly deposit funds with the central bank.

The interest paid by the BSP on deposits by GOCCs and trust departments of banks meant higher central bank expenses.

Inflation for the first eight months of the year stood at 2.6 percent, lower than the government's goal of limiting the figure between 4 and 5 percent.





**BitDefender Internet Security 2008** 

- Antivirus and Anti-Spam
- Personal Firewall
- · Anti-Spyware and Anti-Phishing NEW! Gamer Mode minimizes impact
- on gaming performance
- NEWI Parental Control blocks access to inappropriate websites and email

ONTA

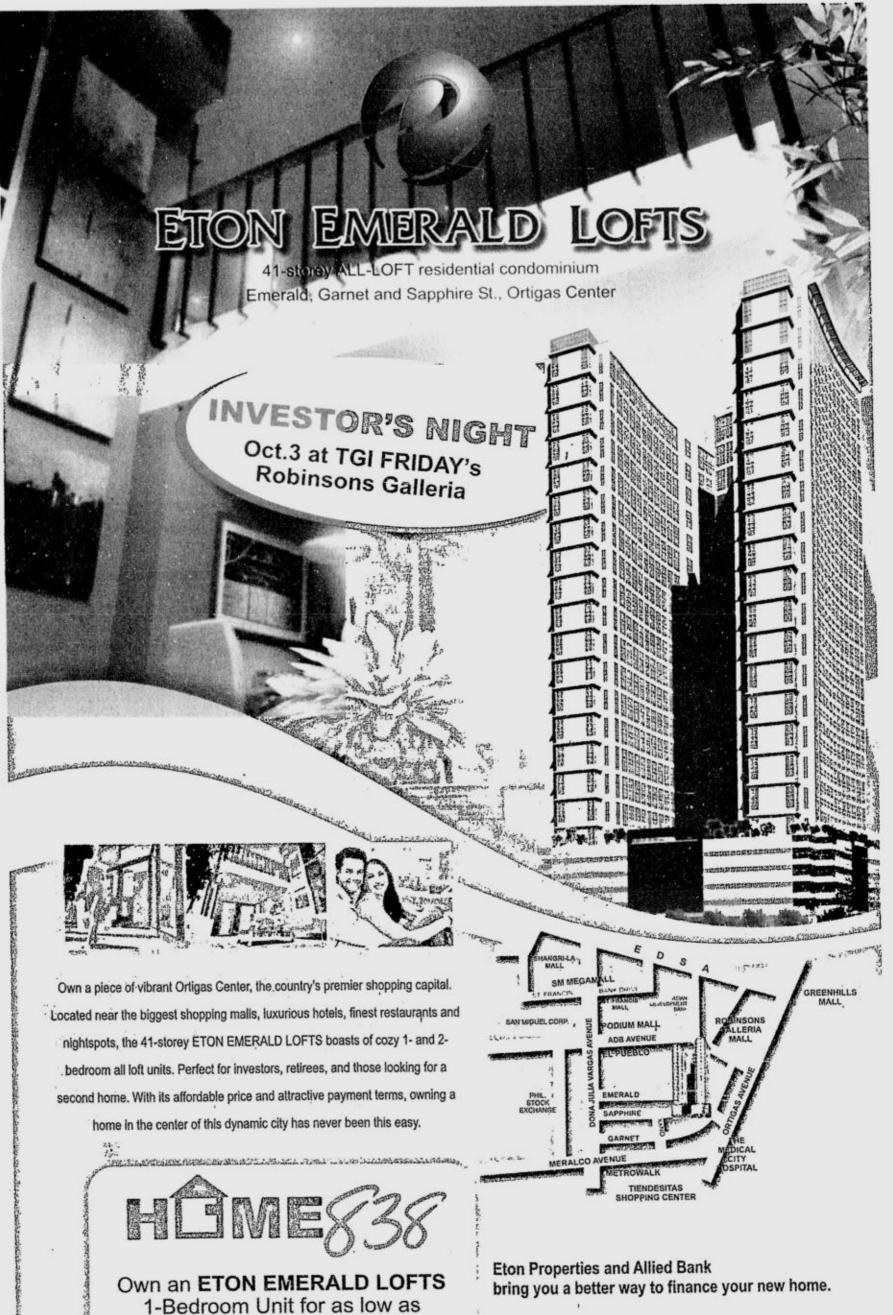
Please visit our website for the BitDefende Antivirus Reseller nearest to you.

IPSYSTEMS Inc. Email: sales@ipsystems.ph

Tel: (632) 638-3264 Web: www.ipsystems.ph

JOR \*BETTER PEOPLE BETTER JOBS

mile interest of inches to matter the state of the



Enjoy the LOWEST interest rate: 8.38% FIXED for 10 years. Available in 10, 15 and 20 year terms.



[]N Eton Properties Philippines, Inc.

a month

A member of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies

www.etonemeraldlofts.com.ph

11,320,000

2,076,000

410,000

130,000

15,030,000

1,204,400,000

18 000

### BUSINESS

## Neda, ODA, NBN and ZTE

LAST WEEK'S SENATE HEARINGS on the NBN-ZTE scandal must have given Neda and its staff reason to both feel good and feel bad. The Neda is of course the National Economic and Development Authority, that agency of the government tasked to coordinate overall socioeconomic development planning.

#### No authority?

Alabang Country Clul
Alta Vista A/B\*Corp.\*
Baguio Country Club
Camp John Hey
Canlubang Golf
Canyon Wooda
Cebu Country Club
Club Filipino
Eagleridge A/B\*/C\*\*
Eastridge A/B\*/C\*\*
Falrways & Bluewate
Forest Hills A/B\*/C\*\*
Luisita Golf &
Menilla Golf Corporati

Manila Golf Individual Manila Polo Manila Southwoods A

Manila Southwoods A/B Makati Sports Club A/B\* Manila Yacht Club Ind.

Metropolitan Club A/B\* Mimosa C1/C2\*/C3\*\*

Orenard WB\*/
Punta Fuego
Quezon City Sports Club
Riviera Golf A/B\*/C\*\*
Rockwell Lelsure Club
Royale Tegaytay CC
Sherwood A/B\*/C\*\*
Splendido Taal

Spiendido Taal Sta. Elena Golf A/B\* The Palms Country Club Tegnytay Country Club Tegnytay Highlands Tagaytay Midlands The Country Club

LABANG COUNTRY CLUB BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB CAMP JOHN HAY

CANLUBANG CAPITOL HILLS

CLUB FILIPINO EAGLERIDGE "A"

EAGLERIDGE "B

UISITA GOLF "A

MANILA POLO MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"

MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"

MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B" MANILA GOLF (CORP) MANILA GOLF (IND)

MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B' MIMOSA (IND) MT. MALARAYAT GOLD "A"

RCHARD GOLF CLUB "A" RCHARD GOLF CLUB "B" RCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"

QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB

TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB

TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A"

TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS

VALLE VERDE (IND)

OCKWELL CLUB

Mt. Malarayat A Orchard A/B\*/C\*\*

-A big part of the Neda's "clout" lies its role in the evaluation and approval of projects funded by official development assistance (ODA), in the form of foreign grants and concessional loans, such as the now-infamous ZTE broadband deal for a National Broadband Network (NBN).

At some points in the hearings, Neda seemed reduced to a mere staff agency with very little, if any, authority-notwithstanding that the "A" in its name precisely stands for that. At other points, the crucial and pre-eminent role played by the agency within the national government in shaping the nation's future was affirmed by the legislators grilling Neda's former leader, now. CHEd Chair Romulo Neri. Ironically, it was the latter who sometimes came across as implying that Neda



is virtually powerless, incurring at one point the ire of a senator who pointed out that Neda was vested with great powers and independence by the Constitution itself.

#### A nosy agency

As of October 1, 2007

260,000/Pls. Call\* 550,000 290,000 440,000

18,000,000

4,500,000

240,00

100,000° Pls. Call 1,500,000

630,00

1,050,000 1,100,000 550,000

450,00

230,00

200,000

220,000

100,000

280,000 300,000 130,000

270,000

630,000

300,000 90,000 210,000

2.000.00 90,00

150,000/280,000

Pls. CalV1,250,000\*

580.000 130.000 500.000

90,000 Pls. Call 120,000 Pls. Call 100,000

Pls. Cal

90,000/180,000\*/200,000\*\*
Pis. Call
24,000,000
Pis. Call
5,500,000

300,000/Pis. Call\* Pis. Call

150,00 220,000/180,000\*

Pls. Ca

170.000 150.0001/250.0001

200.000

2,100,000 380,000 320,000

670,000

40,000

120,000

140,000

250,000

350,000 Please Call 300,000 23,000,000

Please Call

300,000

170,000

300,000 330,000 170,000

700,000

Fet: 8504:151 Email into Epirclubshares.com

GGEA Club Shares Broker No.:

Pis. Call 65,000 70,000/130.000

The Neda is actually two things. It is the Neda Board, chaired by the President and composed of most members of the Cabinet plus the Bangko Sentral governor, which meets once a month in lieu of the regular Cabinet meeting. It is also the Neda Secretariat—the agency housed in Pasig City formerly headed by Neri, along with its regional offices all around the country, which provides technical secretariat support to the Neda Board. The Neda's legal charter describes it as the highest policy-making body in the counseemed to have been implied in

some parts of last week's hearings. It is the Neda Secretariat's job to

ensure that all decisions of the Neda Board are implemented. To do this effectively, it must have the authority for oversight-that is precisely the reason for the agency's name-and as I often describe it, Neda must necessarily "poke its nose into everybody else's business." That is why the Neda and its director general can be so unpopular, and would rather be bypassed by Cabinet colleagues, local executives and legislators if they can.

#### **Projects vs contracts**

This is particularly so in the context of Neda's role in the evaluation and approval of ODA projects by the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC), prior to elevation to the full Neda Board. ICC, while chaired by the secretary of finance, relies on the full complement of the Neda staff, including its regional offices, for its technical secretariat support. ODA-funded projects must thus undergo Neda scrutiny.

On this, Neri repeatedly asserts that it is the projects' substance (he try. Thus, it cannot be as weak as it used the word "concept," which is

# Bangko Sentral OKs Smart loan

### Funding for 3G project

By Doris C. Dumlao

Inc., the country's leading mobile phone provider, has obtained the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' approval for its plan to seek a fresh \$50 million foreign loan for the expansion of its 3G services.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the loan would be obtained from Nordeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale of Singapore.

Local borrowers are required to seek the Monetary Board approval for obligations that will entail foreign currency payments that will be obtained from the domestic banking system.

from the loan would be used by Smart to bankroll the expansion of its state-of-the-art 3G services.

3G is the third generation mobile phone standards and technology. It enables network operators to offer users a wider range of more advanced services while achieving greater network capacity.

Smart, the cash cow of telecommunication giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., offers national 3G coverage with more than 800 sites spanning 119 cities and

In the meantime, the BSP has COMMUNICATIONS reported a 5.8-percent rise in outstanding loans granted by foreign currency deposit units of banks to \$3.3 billion as of end-June from a quarter ago. Year-on-year, however, the FC-DU loan portfolio dropped by \$606 million or 15.7 percent.

> New loans granted in the second quarter exceeded the previous quarter's level by more than \$313 million, while loan payments declined by \$233 million.

> More than 55 percent of the FCDU loan portfolio has shortterm maturities-with payment terms of less than one year.

In terms of borrowers' pro-Guinigundo said proceeds file, commodity/service exporters accounted for 26 cent of the total loan portfolio followed by public utility firms with a 15-percent share. The share to total FCDU loans of private sector borrowings rose to 94 percent in June from 88 percent in March 2007.

Prepayments made by pub lic sector entities including the BSP cut down by half the pub lic sector's share in the FCDU loan portfolio to only 6 per cent as of end-June 2007.

# SM renames 60-ha district

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. HAS renamed its 60-hectare reclaimed property in Pasay City fronting the Manila Bay as Mall of Asia Complex.

The complex was intended for development into an alternative business district, complete with offices, an exhibition and convention center, a row of hotels facing the Manila Bay, a sports arena and a commercial ferry terminal. It is now home to SM Mall of Asia and the corpo-

rate offices of SM Investment and its subsidiaries.

Ongoing projects include the SMX Convention Center, the country's largest exhibition and convention center, OneE-com Center, a 70,000-sq. m. office building suited for business process outsourcing companies.

FVR CLUB SHARES  SPECIALIST, INC.  SLESCIARY OF FRANCISCO V DEL ROSARIO HOLDINGS. INC.  Your Trusted Specialist Broker since 1982  SEC, LICENSE #BD-00129							
as of September 28, 2007  CLUB SELLING BUYING							
ALABANG A ALABANG B BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB CLUB FILIPINO CLUB FILIPINO CLUB PUNTA FUEGO EAGLERIDE C FONTANA B FOREST HILLS B	#80,000 PLS CALL 350,000 180,000 180,000 PLS CALL 23,000,000 PLS CALL 6,300,000 850,000 850,000 150,000	220,000 20,000,000 20,000,000 .5,000,000 .5,000,000 .5,000,000 .5,000,000 .5,000,000 .7,000 .					

Call us at:

840-1761\* 0917-8043072

Email:ggashare@mozcom.com

Website: www.ggaclubshares.com 29th Floor, Pacific Star Bidg., Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makali City

	PLATER	MODITIS AL	30 MAURIE	MUSICI-PREED IN	OF LAIMT	
				OR MARIL		
				hi@info.con		
F T				www.fvrhi.co		CII

Doilar Pesa September 28, 2007 Country Equivalent Equivalent Equivalent 45.0630 0.706664 1.000000 **United States** Dollar 0.3898 0.006113 0.008650 Japan Yen 2.027000 91.3427 1.432408 United Kingdom Pound 0.128876 5.8075 Dollar 0.091072 Hong Kong 0.852224 38.4038 Franc 0.602236 Switzerland 0.998403 44.9910 Dollar 0.705535 Canada 30.2416 0.671096 Singapore Dollar 0.474239 39.5984 0.878735 0.620970 Australia Dollar 119.5908 1.875385 2.653857 Bahrain Dinar 0.188993 0.267444 12.0518 Rial Saudi Arabia 0.668852 30.1405 Dollar 0.472654 Brunei 0.0049 0.000077 0.000109 Indonesia Rupiah 1.4261 Baht 0.022363 0.031646 Thailand 12.2734 UE Dirham 0.192468 0.272361 1.0000000 1.415100 63.7687 Euro EU 0.000768 0.001087 0.0490 Korea Won 5.9966 0.094036 0.133071 Yuan\* China 0.134140 0.189822 8.5539 Kroner Denmark 0.017827 0.025227 1.1368 Rupee India Ringgit 0.206930 0.292826 13.1956 Malaysia New Zealand Dollar 0.528861 0.748391 33.7247 0.108505 0.153546 6.9192 Sweden Kroner 0.021466 0.030377 Nt Dollar 1,3689 Talwan

1.26 1.28 0.0525 PhilWeb.Com Inc. 0.0525 26 1 434 000 Transpandic Broadhand Group Int'l Inc Both will be open for business N SERVICE TRANSPORTATI 47 000 Aboitiz Transport System Corp. within the fourth quarter of the 3.9 3.75 year. Within the next 12-24 37.5 36.5 1,031,200 Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc. 165 Keppel Philippines Marine Inc months, two hotels will be ris-74,000 ing in the area. Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp. Leisure and Resorts World Corp. 88 2,953.000 4.25 4.55 3.45 0.68 0.84 Philippine Racing Club Inc. 14,800,000 0.61 Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc 0.61 0.69 0.3 DIVERSIFIED SERVICES. 4.5 12.75 12.75 CURRENCIES Macroasia Corp. 4.6 13.25 199,000 1.94 Pacific Online Systems Corp 12.75 17.25 Paxys Inc . 0.012 5.7 5.7 16 12 221,900,000 0.0085 3.6 Abra Mining and Industrial Corp 0.012 0.017 Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A" Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B" 5.6 5.7 15.5 5.8 7.6 3.85 7.7 8.9 62,000 Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp. Benguet Corp. "A" 15.75 12 9.000 14.25 Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc. Geograce Resources Philippines Inc. 1.8 3.1 2.36 0.36 0.36 0.028 2.2 0.35 124,924,000 3.1 58,020,000 23,970,000 Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A" Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B" 0.36 0.35 0.36 0.42 0.22 Manila Mining Corp. "A" Manila Mining Corp. "B" 0.028 0.028 0.027 0.031 0.031 1,400,000 0.041 0.02 4,291.800 NiHAD Minerals Resources Int'l Inc 19 25 20.25 18.75 0.013 7.7 34.5 0.013 193,500,000 0.021 0.0079 Omico Corp. Philex Mining Corp. Semirara Mining Corp. 7.7 34 1 06 1 29 8,105.000 7.8 7.5 14.75 43 731.000 United Paragon Mining Corp. Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp. 1.06 1 02 3 595 000 0.56 12.000,000 0.58 0.026 U 25 Basic Energy Corp. Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A" Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B" 0.026 0.026 0.025 0.025 0.027 0.027 5,100,000 0.027 0.01 Petroenergy Resources Corp. 117,000 9.8 0.026 0 026 683.700.000 0.0089 The Philodrill Corp. ■AVISIA(H\$S 32,514,380 943,566,782.00 908 52 UP Financial 546,874,580.00 1,782,680,675.00 4,572.74 UP 12.97 Industria 2,033.04 UP 34.95 593.613.460 Holding Firms 6.51 1,115,428.030 00 1,612,71 UP Property 21.89 45.77 1.538.010.620 689,734,015.00 Service 7,372.10 UP 2,226.71 UP Mining & Oil All Shares Index 3.572.90 DOWN 4.61 4,278,350,460 5,631,207,197.00 Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time-Sept. 27, 2007 SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE COMPILED BY SCHATZLOUODALA INQUIRER RESEARCH

0.17

0.027

1.48

1.1

**Boulevard Holdings Inc** 

ISM Communications Corp.

Music Semiconductors Corp.

Island Information & Technology Inc.

IPVG Corp.

lonics Inc.

9.5

0.05

0.195

0.055

1.86 0.195

0.0525

0.046

1.8 0.185

0.048

0.19

9	_					150	0.5	
			- 4x14 111.1 al. x sh.ruc. 1072 x 2.2.1		ness that			
		eter v	_(As of September					(a) (b)
	-WFFK	52-WEFK	STOCKS BANK	OPFN 8.6	HIGH 8.6	LOW C	8.6	30,000
73	7.5 3 3.5	5.5 39 53	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc. Bank of the Philippine Islands	59 67.5	59.5 67.5	57 66	59 66.5	1,396,500 3,027,900
93	35 3.5	630 18.5	China Banking Corp. Citystate Savings Bank	880 23.25 - 0.42	885 23.25 0.43	880 23.25 0.42	880 23.25 0.42	7,600 300 6,100,000
7	.63 5.5 5.5-	0.36 40 33	Export and Industry Bank Inc Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. Philippine National Bank	56 47	58 48.5	55.5 47	56 48.5	6,775,700 197,400
6	8	41 40	Philippine Savings Bank Philippine Bank of Communications	62 55	62 55	62 55 23	62 55 23.25	200 500 4,050,900
9		15 49.5 43.52	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Security Bank Corp. Union Bank of the Philippines	23 72 55	23.25 76 55 5	72 54 5	76 55	93,300 437,200
5	6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.85 1.92	3.95 1.94	3 85 1.92	3 95 1.92	41.000 1,108,000
1	.22 6.25 .8	0.6 3.7 4.6	Bankard Inc. CitisecOnline.com Inc. Filiplino Fund Inc.	10.75 7.1	11.5	10.75	11.25 7.1	2,651,700 1,000
1	.6 ,805.00	0.4 1,560.00	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. Manulife Financial Corp.	0.89 1,780.00 3.6	0.89 1,780.00 1 3.65	0.88 ,780.00 1, 3.6	0.88 780.00 3.65	210,000 840 883,000
	,005.00 ,335.00	2.95 232 1.945.00	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils. The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. Sun Life Financial Inc.	755 2.290.00	770 2,290.00 2	755 2.290 00 2	770 290 00	1,220 120
	94	3.8	iVantage Corp  FLECTRICITY, ENERG  Aboits Power Corp.	1.58 Y. POWER 4 V 5.3	1 6 /ATE: 5.4	5.2	5.4	3,590,000
7	).57 '0	0.23 49	East Asia Power Resources Corp. First Gen Corp.	0.3 62	0.3 63.5	0.3 62	0.3 63.5	450,000 685,100
1	92 15 105.45	50 8.8 17.27	First Phil. Holdings Corp. Manifa Water Co. Inc. Manifa Electric Co.	14.25 83	80 14.25 83.5	77.5 13.75 82	77.5 14 83	683,300 3,832,100 1,966,200
1	7' 3.5	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp. Petron Corp.	6.4 5.8	6.4 5.9	6.2 5.7	6.4 5.7	6,450,000 4,044,000
	14.75 1 9	6.6 0 99	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. Trans-Asia Oil & Foergy Dev't Corp FOOD, DEVENA	7.6 1.26 83.4 (0)7.000	7.6 1.26	.7.2 1 22	7.2 1.24	343,000 769,000
- 1	6.3 2.95	3.2 1.66	Alaska Milk Corp Allance Tuna International Inc.	5.1 1.8	5.2 1.8	5.1 1.76	5.2 1.78	108.000 947,000
-	28.5 61 25	19.5 34 20	Ginebra San Miguel Inc. Jollibee Foods Corp. Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	24.5 52.5 24	24.5 53 24	24.5 52.5 24	24.5 53 24	350,000 652,700 100
- 1	0.98 3.85	0.43 2.06	RFM Corp. Roxas Holdings	0.81 2.44	0.82 2.5	0.81 2.44	0.82	240,000 5.000
-	80 88 0.66	59 59.5 0.25	San Miguel Corp. "A" *** San Miguel Corp. "B" Swift Foods Inc.	60.5 63 0.49	62 63 0.49	60.5 62 0.49	62 62.5 0.49	64.700 158.400 180.000
1	0.65 22 0.55	15.25 0.26	Universal Robina Corp. Vitarich Corp.	16.5 0.36	16.5 0.39	16 0 36	16.25 0.39	1,610,200 80,000
	6.1 9.2	1.83 4.9	EEI Corp. Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.25 8.4	4.4 8.4	4.25 8.2	4.4 8.2	758.000 4,697,000
	7	1.44	Republic Cement Corp. Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc. CHEL	4.1 1.26	4.1 1.26	3.95 1 18	1 24	97,000 9 319 000
	6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.15 2.26	4.15 2.26	2.26	2 26	752,060 10,000
	0 75	0 125	Picop Resources Inc. HOLDIN	G FIRMS	0.41	0.4	0.41	11 820 020
	3.9 0.17	2.06 0.025 0.22	A. Sonano Corp.  AJO net Holdings Inc.  APC Group Inc.	3.3 0.11 0.84	3.3 0.11 0.85	3.3 0.1 0.82	3.3 0.105 0.84	25.000 17,830.000 15,910,000
	1.28 3.6 3.7	1.5 -1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A" ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.1 3.25	3.15 3.3	3.05 3.25	3.05	976.000 16,000
	0.018 0.019	0.007 0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A" Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B" Abortiz Equity Ventures Inc.	0.011 0.012 6.9	0.011 0.012 7	0.011 0.012 6.9	0.011 0.012 7	25,400,000 2,000,000 8,323,000
S	9.7 0.021 7.3	5.1 0.0075 3.5	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. Alliance Global Group Inc.	0.015 5	0.015 5.2	0.014 5	0.015 5.2	50,800,000 126,535,000
1	2.9 8	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp. Aries Prime Resources Inc.	2.34 3.8 540	2.34 3.8 565	2.3 3.8 540	2.32 3.8 550	901.000 35.000 611,650
s f	590 5.8 10.25	375 1.22 3.75	Ayala Corp. Benpres Holdings Corp. DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.15 9.2	4.15 9.2	4.05 8.9	4.15 9.1	5,425,000 556,000
	6.9 2.5	1.08 0.7	Eton Properties Philippines Inc. F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.5 5.4	1.6 5.6	1.5 5.3	1.6 5.4	33,000 193,000 1,311,000
,	8 3.55 14.5	2.55 1.26 6	Filinvest Development Corp. House of Investments Inc. JG Symmit Holdings Inc.	1.88 10.25	1.88	1.88 10.25	1.88 10.75	39.000 350,800
	5.9 0.8	0.61 0.205	Jolliville Holdings Corp. Medco Holdings Inc.	1.9 0.64 0.52	1.92 0.64 0.55	1.84 0.59 0.52	1.9 0.59 0.55	150,000 110,000 200,000
-	0.95 11.5 8.2	0.195 1.1 2.8	Mabuhay Holdings Corp. Multitech Investments Corp. PAL Holdings Inc.	6.2 6.8	6.6 6.9	6.1 6.8	6.2 6.9	13,064.000 86,000
1	0.215 1.54	0.01 0.72	Pacifica Inc. "A" Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.2 0.89 0.47	0.2 0.89 0.47	0.185 0.8 0.45	0.19 0.85 0.45	190,120,000 340,000 3,470,000
e	0.75 452.5 0.73	0.18 237.84 0.125	Prime Orion Philippines Inc. SM Investments Corp. Sinophil Corp.	375 0.42	377.5 0.43	370 0.41	372.5 0.42	129,010 12,520,000
-	1.06	0.6 1	Solid Group Inc. TKC Steel Corp.	0.71 18.25 0.4		0.71 18 0.39	0.72 18 0.4	360,000 66,000 10 320 000
t	0.75 2.34	0.96	Wellex Industries Inc.  A Brown Co. Inc.	IPERTY 1 52	1.52	1.5	1.52	147.000
)- [-	8.9 1.06	5 0.32	Anchor Land Holdings Inc Araneta Properties Inc.	0.75 16.75	0.75	7.7 0.75 16	7.8 0.75 16.25	62,000 80,000 10,196,500
r-	19.25 1.88 4.7	11.25 1 2.65	Ayala Land Inc. Belle Corp. Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.18 3.8	1.2 4.1	2,175,000 543,000
s IS	2.9 0.86	1.3 0.31	Cityland Development Corp. Crown Equities Inc.	1.9 0.64 0.52	0.64	1.9 0.63 0.5	0.63 0.5	20,000 1,230,000 6,230,000
e of	0.83 0.99 0.47	0.24 0.52 0.05	Cyber Bay Corp. Empire East Land Holdings Inc. Ever Gotesco Resources & Holdigs Inc.	0.73 0.28	0.73 0.28	0.71 0.28	0.71 0.28	3,440,000 4,150,000
e	1.48	0.61 1.26	Fil-Estate Land Inc. Fillovest Land Inc.	1.24 1.7 0.28	1.78	1.2 1.7 0.26	1.22 1.74 0.26	19,187,000 147,084,000 400,000
8	0.49 1.12 4.4	0.1 0.24 1.73	Gotesco Land Inc."A" MRC Allied Industries Inc. Megaworld Corp.	0.58	8 0.6 5 3.65	0.56 3.45	0.58 3.45	9,320,000 96,240,000
b- ne	6.4 0.7	1.5 0.125	Metro Pacific Investments Corp. Phil. Estates Corp.	4.4 0.31 0.5	8 0.38	0.37	3.9 0.37 0.51	88.000 800,000 3,040,000
)-	0.87 23 5.9	0.32 12.5 1.52	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp. Robinson Land Corp. SM Development Corp.	16.5 4.3	5 16.5 2 4.3	16 4.2	16.5 4.3	9,170,600 2,003,000
U r-	13.5 3.25	6.64 1.02	SM Prime Holdings Inc. Shang Properties Inc.	1: 2.4:	2 12 2 2.42	11.5 2.36	12 2.36	6,917,600 224,000 300,000
	1.34 0.49 7.5	0.46 0.08 3.65	Suntrust Home Developers Inc. Uniwide Holdings Inc. Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	0.6 0.2 5	9 0.3	0.26	0.27	11.020.000 12.815.000
t	38.5 11.75	16.25 8.7	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.	5 32	31.5	32 9.5	57,100 849,000
ts	2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	MAUNICARON 1. 1,515.0	3 1.36	1.3	1.36	2,898,000 106,350
ne	1,520.00 2,950.00 7.9	1,055.00 2,150.00 4.5	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co. Prisping Telephone Corp.	2,950.0	0 2.950.00 7 7.1	2.910.00	2.910 00	106.970 2 647 999

### BUSINESS

# Ayala group to prepay P7B in debts in October

### Move expected to generate savings of P1.2B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA CORP., THE COUNTRY'S oldest conglomerate, is preparing to pay another P7 billion in borrowings this month, ahead of their due dates.

This will be on top of the P8 billion that has been prepaid by the company so far this year, Ayala treasurer Ramon Opulencia said.

The settlement of these obligations head of maturity will generate for the company some P1.2 billion in interest savings.

was planning to issue P5 billion worth of peso bonds this year to build up its cash by 2008.

"Our ability to achieve this could be attributed to our strategy to be forward-looking in our fund-raising activities. This involves raising capital or funding when markets are conducive. It also involves our ability to monetize equity holdings to improve our balance sheet position and and to enable us to support our in- P20 billion by the end of the first Zobel de Ayala earlier said.

Avala has invested \$125-\$200 million since last year in the offshore real-estate and business process outsourcing (BPO) industries.

For one, ARCH Capital Asian Partners, L.P., a real estate private equity fund managed by a joint venture firm involving the Ayala Group, focuses on investment opportunities in a number of Asian countries, such as Greater China, India, Thailand and Vietnam.

Last year, LiveIt Solutions, Ayala's holding company for its BPO Last Friday, Ayala Corp. said it ventures, invested a total of \$62 million since it began operations in July 2006. It earlier acquired a majority stake in Integreon Managed Solutions, a US-based document and knowledge process outsourcing company with delivery centers in the US, UK and India.

Proceeds from Ayala's value realization initiatives and healthy dividend flows from subsidiaries have

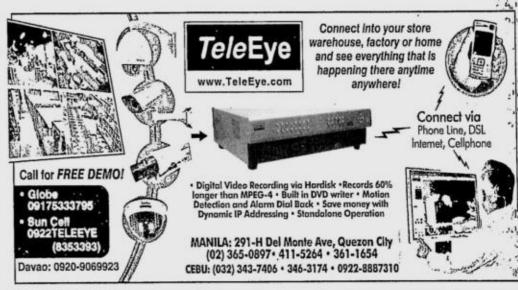
vestment activities," Opulencia said. half, giving the company flexibility to further reduce debt and finance

Its net debt as of the end of the first semester was P13 billion, with its net debt-to-equity ratio at 0.15 to 1, from 0.29 to 1 at the start of

The company has also shifted to peso debts from US dollar-denominated obligations. Its debt mix is now 81 percent peso- and 19 percent dollar-denominated.

The previous year's debt mix was 59 percent peso- and 31 percent dollar-denominated.

"The group's financial position is at its strongest in the past decade and we are pursuing our efforts to expand the group's growth platform in new sectors. We continue to nurture our initial investments in the BPO space and to explore other industries that are beginning to open up and present opportunities for broader private sector participabrought the company's cash level to tion," Ayala chair Jaime Augusto





### BSP airs caution over surge in money supply

From page B1

sures that slowed down the growth in ments surplus of domestic liquidity \$6.75 billion from below 20 percent in the last few months. But with the large BOP surplus, more money could be infused into the system throughout the rest of the year,

Guinigundo said. "We could see ample liquidity in the system, and if the BOP ... continues to be strong, that could pose some pressure on inflation," Guini-

gundo said. He added that, alliquidity though growth continues to slow down, he does not know if this trend will continue the year.

strengthen," Guinigundo said. "Remember that the US had reduced rates by 50 basis points. That could drive out investments emerging markets, including the Philippines, so that will contribute to liquidity growth."

country or remitting money yielded a recordsurplus item. high balance of pay-

January to August this year on robust inflows from overseas Filipinos and gust year-on-year. foreign investors.

In August, how-For the month of August alone, the ever, there was a net surplus amounted to \$2.2 billion, dwarfing the \$359 million portfolio posted in the same ments period last year. This stocks, bonds and came about despite the global financial volatility spurred by the US housing slump that, in turn, SECURE your office from triggered net foreign

The BOP meain the last quarter of sures the foreign exchange transactions "Capital flows can between the domestic economy and the rest of the world.

from the local stock

market during the

capital

outflows

Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, like importation or debt servicing, is a deficit item in the BOP. Any deal that gives rise to a receipt, like borrowing, exporting

# from abroad, is a

On Friday, the BSP also reported that the growth in the country's domestic liquidity eased to 14.9 percent in Au-

outflow of foreign "hot money" or investin local money market due to the US credit

Domestic liquidi- deposits, ty, or m3, is the broadest measure of money, and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy,

including money in

circulation, demand

market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

It is one of the inmonitored by the central bank in its monetary setting.



BED & BREAKFAST PROMO | SEMINAR PACKAGE P1,899 - De Luxe Room

P 980 - Platinum P 785 - Gold P2,199 - Jr. Executive Room P2,399 - Executive Room P 695 - Silver





PSE stock symbol "COL"

### Register now.



"Investing in the Stock Market Today"

Oct. 2, 4 and 9, 2:00 to 6:00pm COL Training Center, 24F PSE Centre Exchange Road, Pasig City

Oct. 11, 5:30 to 8:30pm PSE Auditorium, PSE Centre Exchange Road, Pasig City

"Introduction to Technical Analysis"

Oct. 16, 5:30 to 8:30pm PSE Penthouse, PSE Centre Exchange Road, Pasig City

WAIVED ENTRANCE FEE

To register, call (02) 6-333-777 or log on to www.citiseconline.com.

### **Investors await MB** key rate decision

From page B1

"The market is expected to once again try the 3,600 resistance level, but will be hard pressed to may surrender to do so without a strong positive cataadded.

The last time monetary authorities changed key interest rates was on July 12, when it slashed

overnight borrowing rate to 6 percent from 7.5 percent, and its overnight lending rate to 8 percent from 9.75 percent.

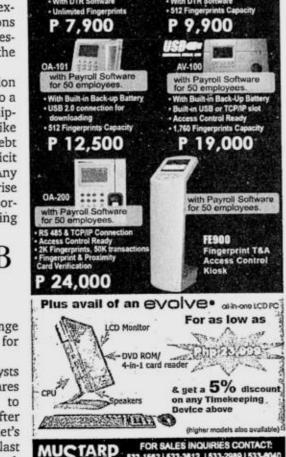
BSP officials also said the overall inflation environment "continues to be favorable," and foresees inflation in September to fall within the 2.1 percent and 2.8 percent range.

National The Statistics Office will release the September inflation data on Oct. 5, a day after the BSP's policy meeting.

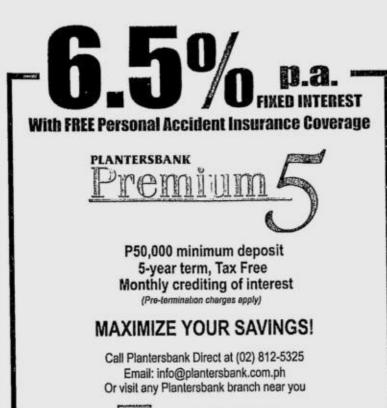
Inflation for the first eight months of the year averaged 2.6 percent, well below the govern-

ment's target range of 4-5 percent for the whole year.

But other analysts said local shares profit-taking after the stock market's lyst," AB Capital 149-point surge last Elizabeth week. Sanchez-Lacson



FRAUD & THEFT!



PLANTERSBANK

Planters Development Bank

Member [2]44.7172

The Bank for Small and Medium Enterprises

er of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation um Deposit Insurance for Fach Depositor P250,000,00

www.plantersbank.com.ph

# Find out who buys your products today, who buys your competitors' products, and why.



The Consumers Choice Programme employs in-depth research to better understand market forces, demographics and brand performance. This knowledge is used to develop programmes that provide marketers with powerful tools to leverage their brand's strengths.

To find out more about the Consumers Choice Programme and to see how your brand rated, please contact Ms..Rochelle R. Sarte at 884 1780/82/83 • email: rochelle@asianimedia.com

> PHILIPPINES 160 SQ MIZES G 10 (02)

www.asianimedia.com

# BUSINESS

# BIR suspends VAT rule on refined sugar sales

# Sector given time to prepare for tax collection enhancement plans

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVenue has suspended the implementation of a regulation requiring the advance payment of value-added tax on the sale of refined sugar.

The suspension was made following complaints lodged by members of the sugar industry.

Sugar industry players claimed the regulation was too prohibitive and that it was issued by the BIR without consultation with affected parties.

Revenue Commissioner Lilian Hefti said her office had to issue Revenue Regulation No. 11-2007, which suspended the implementation of the advanced collection of VAT as embodied

\$15M in food

orders booked

in Moscow fair

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS

booked some \$15.4 million in orders for

Philippine fresh and processed agricultural

products during Moscow's largest interna-

Best sellers among Philippine products

during the World Food Moscow included

dessicated coconut, banana chips, fruits

(fresh, dried, frozen and processed) and

Concerns Bernadette Romulo-Puyat told reporters that the total booked and negoti-

ated sales of the DA-led selling mission was

almost equal to the country's exports to the Russian Federation in 2006, worth \$15.58

Puyat noted that this feat was accom-

plished by just 10 Filipino exporters over

the four-day exhibit, which attracted 1,273

exhibitors from 54 participating countries.

When I visited supermarkets there, I didn't

see any Philippine agricultural product on

sale," Puyat said.

"The Russian market is a big challenge.

She added that with the success of the

These trade and selling missions are part

of the DA's Export Development Team's

thrust to boost Philippine agri-exports by

by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap to widen the country's agri-export base and to

create alternative markets for Philippine

Yap earlier said these missions were in line with the DA's goal to raise the income

Several trade and agricultural missions

of farmers and fisherfolks and to accelerate

spearheaded by the DA in the first six

months of the year have already yielded a

total of P5.7 billion (or \$126 million) in

sales of fresh and processed food products.

This represents an almost 500-percent in-

DA participated in trade and food shows

crease from the P954 million (\$20.86 mil-

lion) generated in the same period last year.

held in the United Arab Emirates, Australia,

Belgium, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, South

first batch of Filipino exporters, "we hope

to see more of our Philippine farm goods in

the shelves of Russian supermarkets."

scouting for more overseas markets.

agriculture and fisheries products.

Headed by Puyat, the team was o

Agriculture Undersecretary for Special

tional autumn food exhibit in September.

players more time to prepare for any government plan to reform the system of VAT collection.

Hefti said BIR officials actually consulted the industry, but added more dialogues might be needed to properly communicate the need for the government to plug VAT leakages in the sugar industry.

The suspended regulation was supposed to be the BIR's response to the suggestions of the Department of Finance, its mother agency, to closely monitor VAT remittances by members of the sugar industry because of suspected tax leak.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, whose family is involved in

in RR No. 6-2007, to give industry the sugar business in Negros Oriental, earlier said the government might be losing huge potential revenues due to tax evasion by some industry players.

One alleged strategy for evading taxes was false VAT exemption claims. Accredited agricultural cooperatives engaged in the sugar business are exempted from VAT.

Under the suspended regulation, VAT on the sale of refined sugar should be paid in advance by the owner before the sugar is withdrawn form the refinery.

No release of sugar is allowed unless it is supported by a Certificate of Advance Payment of VAT issued by

The suspended regulation also requires sugar refiners and millers to submit monthly reports on the quantity of refined sugar milled or produced, as well as the amount of advance VAT paid and duly remitted to the national coffers.

Hefti said that because of the suspension, no advance payment of VAT would be required from the sugar industry. She said though that the BIR would strictly monitor the accuracy of the industry's remittance of the 12percent VAT.

The BIR chief said her office would soon come up with a more acceptable way of collecting VAT from the sugar industry that would, at the same time, plug the suspected tax leaks.

# Yap pushing through with trip to China

By Amy R. Remo

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTHUR C. YAP said he was pushing through with his official trip to China this week, even after the suspension of two RP-China farm deals last week.

"Our goal this time for the Shanghai trip is to encourage investments in biofuels and our grain staples," Yap told reporters.

Raw materials needed in the production of biofuels include rice, cassava and sweet sorghum, he added.

Yap clarified that the suspension of deals with Jilin Fu Hua Agricultural Science and Technology Development Co. and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Government last week did not mean a "total stop" of the projects that involved these firms.

He said the suspension would just give the DA more time to hold dialogues with concerned farmers and stakeholders.

The suspension of two of the 17 farm deals with Chinese groups will likewise allow the DA to study and focus on the structure and framework of the agreements, and come up with more acceptable deals.

"We hope to finish all the dialogues by Christmas," he said.

"[The Chinese] understand the need for the suspension. In fact, we are just addressing concerns, which they may also face while doing business here," Yap added.

Yap announced the suspension of the two farm deals on Sept. 24 while the Senate was inquiring into the controversial broadband deal with ZTE Corp. of China.

Yap stressed the suspension of the two farm deals was a "unique case" and had nothing to do with the ZTE controversy.

The RP-China farm deals were forged in January this year during the Asean Leaders' Summit, where the two governments signed agreements covering biofuel, agribusiness and fishery sectors.

Yap earlier explained these deals were meant to strengthen the agriculture sector and were not connected to any procurement of Philippine lands.

Jilin Fu Hua is expected to invest \$3.8 billion in the next five to seven years in the development of one million hectares of Philippine agricultural land for hybrid

corn, rice and sorghum. This year, it has committed to complete the cultivation of 50,000 hectares of land for hybrid corn and sweet sorghum in sev-



BARANGAY FOOD TERMINALS IN QC

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap award certificates to operate Barangay Food Terminals to a barangay chairman in Quezon City. The awarding, held in Project 6 Elementary School, was attended by Rep. Vincent Crisologo and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte.

# Otto prepares for Palawan exploration

By Abigail L. Ho

AUSTRALIA-BASED OTTO ENERGY Ltd. is seeking a partner for Service ta, SC 55 was expected to contain Contract 55, off the west coast of about 1.8 trillion cubic feet Palawan, as it prepares to start (TCF) of gas and 567 million bardrilling activities in the area by Au- rels of oil.

In a disclosure to the Aus- resource estimates were placed at lion to 1.1 billion barrels of oil.

tralian Stock Exchange, Otto Energy CEO Alex Parks said that based on preliminary seismic da-

If oil alone is found in the area,

320 million to 2.7 billion barrels.

Its potential gas yield was placed at between 721 billion cubic feet (BCF) and 5.6 TCF-even bigger than the Malampaya project.

In case there is both oil and gas, expected yields were placed at 468 BCF to 3.6 TCF of gas and 144 mil-

eral provinces in Cagayan Valley, Isabela, Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan.

# Banks oppose CARP rule on foreclosed farmland

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANKS ARE IN UPROAR OVER A GOVernment ruling that subjects all longforeclosed agricultural property to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Chamber of Thrift Bank president Alfredo Yao, in a report on Friday, said the association would request for a legal opinion from the Department of Justice to clarify the Department of Agrarian Reform's recent ruling that subjected to the CARP even those

agricultural property foreclosed by among the amendments to the Com- amendatory Republic Act No. 8532, banks beyond a five-year holding pe-

Yao said some of the CTB's member-banks had been negatively affected by the ruling.

Once subjected to the land reform program, the banks have no choice but to sell the agricultural property to the government for redistribution to farmers and regular farm workers who are landless, irrespective of tenurial arrangement.

"We could possibly include this as

prehensive Agrarian Reform Law which is among the priority measures of the 14th Congress," Yao said.

Last July, House Bill No. 743 entitled, "An Act Strengthening the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program" was filed in Congress. The bill seeks to further amend the funding source by providing that "the initial amount needed to implement CARP until the year 2018, or an additional period of 10 years from the expiration of its period under the and marketing.

shall be funded from the Agrarian Reform Fund."

The bill also mandates banks and financing institutions to accept as collateral for loans any duly registered emancipation patent or certificate of land ownership award, whether individual or collective, issued by the government through the DAR to farmer beneficiaries of agrarian reform. This, however, covers only loans that will be used to enhance crop production

# Infra work seen to peak in 3 years

Amy Remo

From page B1

Korea and Japan.

farm growth.

matching the projected office supply, and will grow 10 to 15 percent a year, CBRE director Paul Ryan Isip said.

The construction boom is also underscored by the estimated 21-percent growth in construction sales in the first semester, as measured by gross value added (GVA).

GVA is a key performance indicator of the construction sector, and is derived by deducting the intermediate

goods used in production, such as raw materials, fuel, advertising and other non-industrial overhead costs, from the total value of output or construction sales using 1985 prices as the base year, CBRE noted.

GVA grew almost 21 percent to P29.87 billion in the first half, from P24.76 billion in the same period in 2006, data from the National Statistical Coordination Board showed.

With high-rise residential condominiums, supply is expected to reach

nearly 4,500 units in 2008, from over 4,000 in 2007. Asuncion estimates demand right now is half of the 4,500 units projected supply, mostly coming from BPO workers and middle-class

"Most developers nowadays are pre-selling their projects before they break ground to eliminate the risk of speculative demand," Asuncion said. "Moreover, [developers were] able to increase project profitability with the inflow of installment payments from beth Sanchez-Lacson

CBRE also said the voluntary freeze on major construction work is starting to melt, with activities from both the public and private sectors flourishing.

For the public sector, the Arroyo administration has lined up infrastructure projects for completion by 2010. In the private sector, construction projects are ongoing in Metro Baguio, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao. Eliza-

much a telecommunications project.

The law further states: "The Neda

shall ensure that the ODA obtained

shall be for previously identified na-

tional priority projects which are ur-

gent or necessary. ODA shall not be

accepted or utilized solely because of

its availability, convenience or acces-

# No free lunch

too weak a word)-not the specific contracts-that the ICC and Neda Board approve. But he is not completely right to insist that in the case of the NBN project, the DOTC "could do whatever it liked" in deciding how to implement it. Section 9 of the ODA Law (R.A. 8182) states: "All concerned implementing and oversight agencies shall submit to the Neda all information and reports as may be required by it to review draft contracts (emphasis mine)..."

### From BOT to loan

It is now widely known, with official transcripts freely circulating, that the ICC and the Neda Board approved the NBN project late last year on the condition (explicitly stated by the

### From page B4

President as the Neda Board Chair) that it would be implemented at no cost to the government, i.e., on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis with no government guarantees. Neri testified that he had in fact conveyed this to ZTE officials in a lunch meeting arranged by the Chinese Embassy where Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos was also present. And yet, just a few months later, the President was "blessing" the signing of the contract for the project that was to be financed with a loan from the Chinese government-in complete contravention of

the Neda Board decision. The Neda, through Neri, did have the responsibility to, at the very least, call the DOTC's attention that by pursuing the ZTE deal, the latter was vio-

lating the Neda Board decision. The DOTC may be free to determine which supplier or contractor to implement a project, but it certainly was not free to just change it from a BOT project to an ODA loan-funded one on its own.

### Clear violation?

forgotten that Section 4 of the ODA Law states: "ODA shall not be availed of or utilized directly or indirectly for ... telephone programs contracted as of Jan. 1, 1996, except basic tele-

sibility." The project arguably does There is more. The DOTC may have not satisfy the first description of being urgent or necessary (as testified to by UP Professors Raul Fabella and Emmanuel De Dios), while the ZTE deal smells very much like the second, with the additional stink of a phone programs and projects for rusupplier-driven, graft-ridden transacral areas not adequately serviced tion to boot. Seems to me a clear vioand/or currently developed by private enterprises shall be entitled to ODA loan availments." NBN is very

lation of the law, if ever I saw one. Comments welcome at chabito@ate-

# Market ...

Total market capitalization of all listed companies reached P8.24 trillion at the end of the first nine months, or 14.8 percent higher than the P7.17-trillion mark at the end of 2006.

Market capitalization of listed domestic companies amounted to P4.25 billion, or 26.7 percent more than the P3.35-billion posted at the end of 2006.

The PSEi, which is the main barometer of local stock price movements, closed at 3,572.9 points during the nine-month period-19.8 percent more than its 2,982.54-point closing level in 2006.

"Our market benefited immensely from the PSE's continuing reforms, which are designed to assure our market's integrity and efficiency," Lim said. "Improvements in government's fiscal position, along with the reassuring maturity that our political leaders have shown in handling their differences, also have helped a lot.

"I am optimistic we can further ratchet up the level of confidence of investors on us and we can entice them to bring more funds to our stock market if we can put in place a more enabling business environ-

Lim added he would actively support the enactment of a capital marketfriendly legal and regulatory framework and introduce more global best practices, especially in the areas of good corporate governance and investor protec-

### BUSINESS

# For Microtel Inns, maiden offer may be in the works

## Company exec does not discount IPO conduct in '09

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DAVAO CITY-FOR MICROTEL INNS & Suites (Pilipinas) Inc., an initial public offering may not be too far off, now that it has completed an aggressive expansion thrust to open four new facilities worth an estimated P656 million.

Company president Jose Mari del Rosario said in an interview an IPO was not yet being seriously considered, but that this could be done in late 2009 if a management decision was made.

"What we want to focus on now is to make a good play, but we feel (Microtel) is a good product," Del Rosario said.

The official represents the Phinma group in the local master franchise given out by the Global Hyatt Hotel group.

Microtel expects to launch its 160-room facility on Mactan Island in Cebu worth about P256 million in mid-2008, along with the 50-room, P80-million facility in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

A third one is due for launch in October 2008 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, which will also have 50 rooms.

The year-long construction of the fourth one-the 150-room, P240-million Microtel at the SM Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City—is expected to start in December.

"With the four (facilities) opened by 2008, we will be achieving our target of having 10 units within the first 10 years of our operation," Del Rosario said.

Microtel Pilipinas has six existing facilities, with the newest one here having started accepting guests on Sept. 27 and is due for a grand opening in December.

Microtel Davao is fully funded by the

# Thrift banks seek access to hedging tools

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S THRIFT BANKS HAVE asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to allow them to become end-users of derivatives or sophisticated hedging mecha-

During the general membership meeting of the Chamber of Thrift Banks on Friday, bank officials reminded the BSP of their hedging needs in their effort to draw up a new framework for the liberalization of the use of derivatives.

"Allowing thrift banks to engage in derivatives activities will give them the opportunity to actively and effectively manage their foreign exchange and interest rate risks, thus maintaining their competitiveness," said Alfredo Yao, president of CTB and Philippine Business Bank, in a report presented to members.

Under earlier drafts of the proposed new rules on derivatives, thrift banks, rural banks and cooperative banks will be allowed to engage in derivatives transactions as end-users, their transactions restricted to BSP-authorized dealers and brokers. They must also comply with prescribed capital for market risk.

But that provision for small banks was deleted in subsequent drafts, Yao said.

"On the revised exposure draft circular governing a bank's derivative activities, we appealed to the BSP for the need to revert to the original draft's provision which allowed thrift banks to engage in derivatives transactions as end-user," he said.

A derivative is a form of security, such as an option or futures contract, whose value depends on the performance of an underlying security or asset.

Its value changes with that of its underlying commodity or index, such as interest rate, price of a financial asset, foreign exchange rate, indices of financial asset prices or interest rate or foreign exchange rates, or credit rating or credit index.

Financial derivatives activities also include transactions in cash instruments.

Prior to the BSP's approval, banks will still be required to apply for additional authority to engage in all other financial derivatives.

There are four types of additional au-

 Expanded Dealer Authority—for banks with comprehensive and integrated risk management and sales practices that are deemed appropriate and adequate for the level of derivatives activities ranging from plain vanilla to the more sophisticated derivatives products.

 Limited Dealer Authority—for banks wishing to operate as a dealer only in specific derivatives products.

 Expanded User Authority—for those who want to deal with a wider array of financial derivatives.

 Limited User Authority—for those wishing to engage, as end-user, in specific derivatives.

franchisee-the high-end Pearl Farm in Samal Island—just like ones in Baguio and Boracay.

But Del Rosario said Microtel Pilipinas was also open to a minority stake, especially when the franchisee preferred a joint venture, as in the case with the branches in Tarlac, Cavite and

PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund

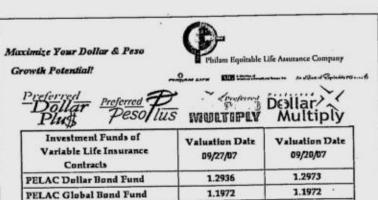
These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance of mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the

PELAC Peso Equity Fund

PELAC Balanced Fund

Floreindo long-term goal was to have a group, which also owns the Microtel facility in as many provinces as possible, especially in established and emerging tourist destinations.

Del Rosario said the firm is currently considering opportunities in General Santos City and Cagayan de Oro City in Mindanao; Cebu City in the Visayas; Angeles City in Central Luzon; Laoag City in Northern Luzon; and four lo-He added that the company's cations in Metro Manila.



1.0264

1.2867

0.9733

nd are not considere



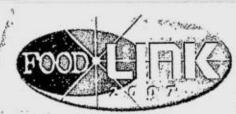
### YOU'RE INVITED TO COME AND VISIT



1.3225

0.9925

14th international agribusiness exhibition & seminars



8th international food processing, packaging & products exhibition

1:00pm - 3:00pm

1:00pm - 5:30pm

1:00pm - 3:00pm

3:30pm - 5:30pm



3rd national fisheries exhibition & seminars



OCTOBER 4-6, 2007

show hours: 10am - 6pm world trade center metro manila (wtcmm) pasay city, philippines

DEPARTMENT

OF AGRICULTURE

**INVITES YOU TO** 

**COME AND SEE** 

AGRICULTURAL

**HARVEST** 

(Oct. 4-6, 2006•WTCMM)

Search for the

SEMINARS AND EVENTS (as of September 27, 2007)

October 4, 2007 (Thursday)

Special Events (WTCMM Lobby): 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Product Launching by: Univet Agricultural Products Cooking Demonstration by: Organic Producers Trade Assoc. 3:30pm - 5:00pm

October 5, 2007 (Friday)

Seminars (Hall A, WTCMM):

10:30am - 5:30pm

10:30am - 12:30pm

1:00pm - 3:00pm

3:30pm - 5:30pm

· Management of Sows & Piglets Growing the Future - Richel Greenhouses

 Raising Sunshine, Free-Ranged, Grass-Fed by: French Le Club (Seminar Rm. 1)

How to Start a Meat Section in Small & Medium

Sized Supermarkets by: Meat Importers Traders Assoc. (Seminar Rm. 2)

Monitoring & Evaluating the Socio-Economic Impact of BT Corn in the Philippines by: Monsanto Phils. (Seminar Rm. 3) Nutritional Strategies to Prevent Scouring in Piglets

 Biosecurity Measures During Disease Outbreak by: Univet Nutrition & Animal Healthcare Co. (Seminar Rm. 2) Technological Trends in Organic Farming &

International Organic Certification by: Herbana Farms (Seminar Rm. 3) The Essentials of Managing Common Pig

Diseases at Herd Level by: San Miguel Foods, Inc. (Seminer Rm. 2) High Productivity as a Result of an Optimum Climate

Special Events (WTCMM Lobby): Sponsored by: San Miguel Foods, Inc. 10:30am - 5:00pm

October 6, 2007 (Saturday)

Seminars (Hall A, WTCMM):

10:30am - 12:30pm Supplying Fresh Produce to the Supermarkets by: Phil. Amalgamated Supermarket Assoc. (Seminar Rm. 1)

Pangasius World Trends & Management Opportunities by: Vitarich Corp. (Seminar Rm. 2)

Indigenous Plants for Health & Wellness

Avocado & Coconut-Based Products

· Essential Oils Malungay for Wellness & Business

by: Bureau of Agricultural Research (Seminar Rm. 3) All About Herbs (Medicinal Herbs & Culinary Herbs)

by: Agri-Aqua Network Int'l. (Seminar Rm. 1) Philippine Fisheries Investment Environment

 Ornamental Fish Raising · Farming of Sea Cucumber, Sea Horse & Abalone

Farming of Sea Urchin

Modular Cage Farming of Bangus
 Pond Polyculture of Caranx, Grouper, Red

Snapper & Siganid w/ Bangus

Farming of Red Tilapla
 by: Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources

(Seminar Rm. 2) Temperature Management During Handling of

Fresh Produce

Ensuring Quality & Safety of Fresh Produce in Supermarkets

by: Postharvest Horticulture Training & Research

(Seminar Rm. 3)

Economics of Goat Raising

Goat & Sheep Marketing

Health & Nutrition

by: Federation of Goat & Sheep Producers & Assoc. of the Phils. (Seminar Rm. 1)

The Organic Challenge:
• The Baras Town, Rizal Achievement in Becoming

the 1st Organic Town in the Philippines

- Updates in the Organic and Slowfood Movements

Earthworms in Your Organic Farm

by: Organic Producers Trade Assoc. (Seminar Rm. 3)

Special Events (WTCMM Lobby):

Agri-Kapihan Forum by: Agri-Aqua Network Int'l. 10:30am - 12:00nn Cooking Demonstration "MegarantIsadong Sarap" 1:00pm - 3:00pm by: Mega Fishing

2:00pm - 5:00pm Plnaka-Best Agricultural Harvest Awarding (Venue: Hall A, WTCMM)

3:30pm - 5:00pm Cooking Demonstration

Application of Organic Fiber in Meat Processing for Value Added Products by: Bureau of Animal Industry

CONTEST (Oct. 6, 2006-WTCMM) Ol My Gulay Cooking Contest for more details

> visit: www.bar.gov.ph or call

COOKING

tel.#: 928-8505 loc 1813

EXHIBITORS LIST (as of September 27, 2007):

INDOOR: 7L Agri-Food/Kasetphand Ind. • APF Corp • Abellar Eqpt. • Agrimate • Alatone Plastics • Alminco • Amazon Mfg. • Asia Giant Ent. • BAI • BFAR Pavillon • BPRE/PI Farms • Belgian Trade Office/ Flanders Investment & Trade • Belmont Agricorp • Brain Comp. • British Pig Assoc. • Bureau Agricultural Research • CEFN • CJ Phils. • Cathay Drug. The • Chia Tung Phils. • Colent Ent. • Console Farm • DA Pavillon • DYD Refrigeration Sys. • Del Monte Phils. • Diconex • Euroduna Pacific • FEOP • Filco Corp. • First Phil. Scale • Five Continents Machinery • Floatech Int'l. • Good Harvest Console Farm • DA Pavillon • DYD Refrigeration Sys. • Del Monte Phils. • Diconex • Euroduna Pacific • FEOP • Filco Corp. • First Phil, Scale • Five Continents Machinery • Floatech Int'l. • Good Harvest Agri Machineries • Grainpro System • Grains Handlers • HG Silos • Inca Plastics • Interheat, Inc. • Jansen Poultry • Jlangsu Zengchang Group • Joongang Precision • Korea Agricultural Machinery • L.A. Agro-Ind'l. • Land Bank • Lee Hwa Inds. • Leisure Exchange • Limcoma • Long Miee • Mik Phils. • Macro Eng'g. • Manila Bulletin • Marid Agribusiness Digest • Maysan Casting • Mechaphil • Mega Packaging • Monsanto Phils. • Muyang Group Ltd. • NGGROCOMA • Northern Foods • Nuevo Milenio • OPTA • Open Academy • PHILFOODEX • PHTRC • Paradizoo • Philbio Sclence Co. • Mega Packaging • Monsanto Phils. • Muyang Group Ltd. • NGGROCOMA • Northern Foods • Nuevo Milenio • OPTA • Open Academy • PHILFOODEX • PHTRC • Paradizoo • Philbio Sclence Co. • Mega Packaging • Monsanto Phils. • Muyang Group Ltd. • NGGROCOMA • Northern Foods • Nuevo Milenio • OPTA • Open Academy • PHILFOODEX • PHTRC • Paradizoo • Philbio Sclence Co. • Marida Bulletin • Marida Agribusiness Digest • Maysan Casting • Mechaphil • Mechaphil • Marida Marida Philbio Sclence Co. • Manila Bulletin • Marida Agribusiness • Marida Bulletin • Marida • Marida • Marida • Marida • Marida • Marida • Mar RPM Pili Nuts • Sees Int'l. • Tita Marinas • Toscano







@ SKOV



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Entrance & Seminars are FREE

for more details plrase contact the organizer: Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development, Inc. Tels.: +63 2 8384549, 8384491, 8384605 Fax: +63 2 8384573, 8384854 Email: frid@pidtdsl.net

Text us your feedback: inquirer it name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# Nokia: From cell phone maker to Internet company

By Tina G. Santos

ROM BEING A MOBILE phone handset manufacturer to an Internet company.

This is basically the path Nokiaknown for innovative cell phone products-is heading to, as it unveiled plans to stretch its territory by venturing into the world of services and software,

The "Nokia Go Play" event brought company honchos, journalists from all over Asia, and techie enthusiasts-together in Singapore recently for the worldwide launch of a new Internet platform called "Ovi."

"With the introduction of Ovi, Nokia is expanding its focus from mobile devices to offering a wide range

of Internet services," said Urpo Karjalainen, Nokia SVP for customer and market operations in the Asia Pacific.

The move was readily understandable as Nokia said that 700 million out of the 900 million Nokia users around the world are accessing the Internet from their Nokia devices.

Company executives even noted that the mobile devices had become the most popular platform, even referring to it as the "fourth screen"-next to cinema, TV and PC.

### Music store, gaming platform

Ovi, the Finnish world for "door," is not only the gateway to Nokia services but also a place where people can get digital content, create and share media, connect to Web communities and unlock other potentials of the Internet.

Ovi can be accessed from a personal computer, but its real benefits are experienced when accessed from a mobile device, said Ilkka Raiskinen, senior vice president for Nokia Multimedia.

"With the launch of Ovi, Nokia is integrating the mobile device, user interface and Internet services to make it easier to create, share and explore a wide range of digital experience on the go," he said.

Two new services-the Nokia Music Store and N-gage gaming platform-were launched as part of Ovi. These were prompted by the rising demand for music and games on mobile devices, Raiskinen said.

Citing Nokia's recent consumer research, he said more than 50 per-

cent of subscribers were playing games on their devices-a very high number exceeded only by text Nokia N95 8GB. messages and photo taking.

Also, more than 75 percent of Nokia's subscribers listen to music several times a week, the study showed

The Nokia Music Store offers millions of tracks from major artists around the world. It allows users to browse, download and stream music or sync those into their devices.

Music lovers can easily transfer purchased songs to their device using Windows Media Player or with the Nokia Music PC.

Nokia has also revamped its Ngage system from a simple device to a dedicated mobile games platform that allows players to browse Ngage games, try them for free, then purchase (over the air or on PC) and play from any one of the tens of millions of compatible Nokia devices in the market.

### Play with friends

Players can also share the fun by connecting with friends, challenging other players around the world and participating in community activities in the N-gage Arena.

Popular games to be carried include The Sims Pets, Tiger Woods PGA Tour, EA Sports FIFA 08, World Rally Championship and Crash

N-gage will be compatible with a variety of Nokia S60 devices. Two months from now, N-gage will be compatible with Nokia N73, Nokia

N81 and Nokia N81 8GB, Nokia N93 and N93i, Nokia N95 and

"Combined with powerful devices, world class titles and brands, and interactive social networking features, the N-gage service takes the mobile gaming experience beyond traditional boundaries," Raiskinen said.

The N-gage service will be available globally in November.

### Navigation service

Nokia Maps is being integrated into the Ovi as well. This turns a mobile device into a PND (personal navigation device) and is now a standard feature in all Nokia N series multimedia computers, Nokia E series devices and a wide range of Nokia mobile phones.

Nokia Maps is free and provides mapping in over 100 countries, routing points of interest-tourist attractions, hotels and restaurants-into a Nokia handset. Subscribers can purchase city guides and voice-guided navigation for those devices with integrated GPS or GPS enhancements.

### Ovi.com going live

Nokia said the Ovi experience and features will be expanded continuously-driven by consumer feedback and input.

The first version of Ovi.com is expected to go live by the end of the year in English and will expand to more markets and with other languages in the first half of 2008.

NOKIA

NOKIA'S mobile phones will soon provide users with

more games and wider access to the Internet.

Republic of the Philippines



### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

LRT LINE 1 NORTH EXTENSION PROJECT

1. The Light Rall Transit Authority (LRTA) invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the bidding of the Contract Packages described below. The funds have been provided for by the Government of Philippines (GOP). The Contracts shall be executed on a "Design-Build" Contract

Name of Contract	Package A	Package B	Package C
Location	Metro Manila	Metro Manila	Metro Manila
Brief Description	Construction of Viaduct and Pedestrian Overpasses	Construction of Stations and Station Modifications	Electro-Mechanical Works
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pesos 2.8 Billion	Pesos 0.83 Billion	Pesos 2.04 Billion
Contract Duration	22 Months	22 Months	22 Months

- 2. Prospective Bidders should possess a Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License applicable to the respective type and cost of the said contracts. Prospective Bidders for each Package should have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of said Package and should meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Applications for eligibility shall be evaluated on
- Bidding shall be conducted through an open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or entities with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
- The Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) will issue Eligibility Documents to the prospective Bidders upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 25,000.00) for each Package to the Light Rail Transit Authority Interested bidder shall submit the duly accomplished Eligibility Documents to the SBAC at the address given below, on or before the deadline for receipt of Eligibility Documents. Only those bidders passing the Eligibility Check will be entitled to purchase the bidding documents
- The SBAC shall open the bids at the time, date and place specified. The SBAC of the Light Rail Transit Authority shall determine each bidder's compliance with the documents required to be submitted for the Technical Proposal of the Bid, as prescribed in Instructions to Bidders of IRR-A. For this purpose, on the Day of Opening of Bids, the SBAC of the Light Rail Transit Authority shall check the submitted documents of each bidder against a checklist of required documents to ascertain if they are all present in the first (Technical) envelope, using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. If a bidder submits all required documents, it shall be rated "passed" for that particular requirement. In this regard, failure to submit a requirement, or an incomplete or patently insufficient submission, shall be considered "failed" for the particular requirement concerned. In case one or more of the above required documents in the first envelope of a particular Bid is missing, incomplete or patently insufficient, the SBAC of the Light Rail Transit Authority shall rate the bid concerned as "failed" and immediately return to the Bidder concerned its second (Financial) envelope unopened. Immediately after determining compliance with the requirements in the first bid envelope (Technical Proposal), the SBAC shall forthwith collect all the second bid envelopes (Financial Proposals) of the remaining complying bidders, whose first bid envelope was rated "passed" and seal them in a separate BOX in the presence of the Bidder's representatives of the complying bidders, who may also initial on the seal
- This being a "Design Build" Contract, the second (Financial) envelope of the complying Bidders shall be opened only after due evaluation for the responsiveness of the Technical Proposals and its compliance to the Performance Specifications/Employer's Requirements. The Date of the Opening of the Financial Envelope shall be informed to all Bidders, whose Technical Proposal, after evaluation is found technically responsive and compliant to the Performance Specifications/ Employer's Requirements. In the Financial Proposal (in the second envelope), in case one or more of the requirements of a particular bid is missing, incomplete or patently insufficient, and/or if the submitted total bid price exceeds the ABC, the SBAC shall rate the bid concerned as "failed". Bids that are determined to contain all the requirements for the second (Financial) envelope shall be rated "passed" and shall immediately be considered for detailed evaluation of the Financial Bids. Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order
- to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the contract. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

(PDI - Oct. 1, 2007)

SBAC Activities	Package A	Package B	Package C		
Receipt of Letter of Intent (LOI) & Issuance of Eligibility Documents	8 AM to 5 PM, October 8 to 22, 2007 Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) Secretariat, Administration Building, Light Rail Transit Authority, LRTA Compound, Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City, 1300 Metro Manila, Philippines 9001.				
Receipt of Eligibility Documents	9 AM November 21, 2007	9AM November 22, 2007	9AM November 23, 2007		
(Opening & Deadline)	Special Bids & Awards Committee (SBAC) Light Rail Transit Authority, the Cafeteria, LRT Line 2 Depot, Marcos Highway, Pasig City				
Issuance of Bid Documents	8 AM - 5 PM December 5 to 12, 2007				
Pre-Bld Conference	9AM January 7, 2008 at the Cafeteria, LRT Line 2 Depot, Marcos Highway, Pasig City				
Receipt of Technical &	9AM February 18, 2008	9AM February 19, 2008	9AM February 20, 2008		
Financial Bids & Opening of Technical Bids (Opening & Deadline)	Special Bids & Awards Committee (SBAC) Light Rail Transit Authority, the Cafeteria, LRT Line 2 Depot, Marcos Highway, Pasig City				
Opening of Financial Bids		ommittee (SBAC) Light Rall pot, Marcos Highway, Pasig			

- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the Eligibility Check at the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50, 000.00) for each Package, to the Light Rail Transit Authority. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative
- 10. All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Security in the appropriate form and amount as specified in R.A. 9184 and the Bid Documents: Late Bids shall not be accepted
- 11. The Light Rail Transit Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Eligibility Documents or Bids, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) Administration Bullding, Light Rail Transit Authority, LRTA Compound Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City, 1300 Metro Manila

Philippines 9001 Telephone: +63-2-833-2466, FacsImile: +63-2-831-6449

### THE MOBILE HOUSE

# Perfect for the on-the-go geeks

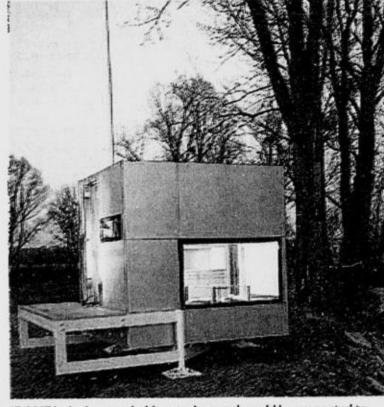
By Jason de Villa

IT ISN'T ONLY GADGETS THAT ARE BEcoming slimmer and smaller. A team from the Technological University of Munich has created what could be the perfect mobile home. They call it the micro compact home (m-ch), a cube measuring about nine feet tall, wide and deep. It sounds like a claustrophobe's nightmare, but panoramic windows should ease that crowded sensation.

You have all your music in your iPod video, your movies in your Archos 704, your games on your PSP, and you can get onto the Web with your laptop and 3G phone from practically anywhere. Buy a small lot in practically any place you want, and set up each lot with support structures (basically posts, an extension cord for electricity, and a water source) where you can dock the m-ch easily in each place. Pack all your gadgets into the m-ch, and tow it anywhere you want to go.

By the way, the m-ch cost about 25,000 to 34,000 euros each (approximately P1.7

http://www.microcompacthome.com/ to check out this great cube of a home.



IF ONE isn't claustrophobic, a techno geek could be connected to virtually anywhere from this multi-media 'micro compact home.'



Office of the Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids and Awards Committee, is

inviting interested distributors, wholesalers and/or suppliers. Licensed Security Agencies to apply for eligibility and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the following BIDDING FEE PROJECT REFERENCE ABC

Procurement of Fire Extinguishers (Brand New & refill). P 206,400.00 P 500.00 Supply of Security Services for deployment to various offices/hospitals in the province of Isabeta. P 4,050,000.00 P 4,000.00 All particulars relative to the diligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be overned by the provisions of R. A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government rocurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES: Availability of Bid Documents

Pre-Bid Conference

Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Opening of Bids

October 8-9, 2007, 8AM to 5PM at the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol. Ilagan, Isabela. Oct. 10. 2007 at 10 AM, Governor's Minience Hall, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela Oct. 22, 2007 at 10:00 AM. BAC Secretariat's Oct. 22, 2007 at 10:30 AM. Governor's Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabe

Complete set of bid proposals/forms may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol Ilagan, Isabela upon payment of non-refundable bidding fee stated above at the Provincial Treasurer's Office

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal has been evaluated by the BAC as the most advantageous to the Provincial Government and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning

Further, the Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever to nsate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in this undertaking nor does it guarantee that an aw ard will be made

(PDI-Oct. 1, 2007)

(Sgd.) MA. THERESA ARANETA-FLORES

### **D-Link unveils** new 54Mbps Wireless G Router

D-LINK INTERNATIONAL, ONE OF THE world's biggest suppliers of network products, recently unveiled the newest model of their wireless G router series-the DIR-300. Featuring a sleek black design that fits perfectly into any household, the DIR-300 is a highly affordable dual func-

tion device. A router by default, it can also be reconfigured and used as access point to suit individual needs. "Based on the IEE 802.11g wire-

less standard, which backward compatible with

802.11b, the new DIR-300 is both a router and access point at the same time, providing an all-inone, convenient solution for consumers, said Mr. George Wong, Marketing Director.

"Built-in Qos functionality ensures that the DIR-300 is capable of prioritizing data packets to improve the qualities of VoIP and real time multimedia streaming," he added

D-Link International Pte Ltd.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES PORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: llombox@lio.gov.ph • Website: www.lio.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID Procurement of Velidation Stickers and Plate Year Tags for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008
Procurement of Aluminium Sheeting Materials for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008
Procurement of Reflective Sheeting Materials for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008

The Land Transportation Office, through the General Funds (Funds 101) intends to apply the following amount being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the aforesaid projects, to will:

Php 17,265,941.82 - Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags for 1st and 2nd

Quarters of CY 2008

Php 18.265.240.16 - Aluminum Sheeting Materials for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008

Php 43.534.084.25 - Reflective Sheeting Materials for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in

Bidding will be conducted through open compelitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/ fall criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino clitzons/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the publidity shock will be append. The process for the allocation shock is described in Section Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 130 (C.A. 130). Chay but a finding pass the eligibility check is described in Section if of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shell advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Property Section from October 1, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-Secretariat at the Property Section starting October 1, 2007 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000 00, in the form of cash for each project. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the following schedules at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City, to wit:

October 10, 2007/10:00 A.M. -

Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008 Aluminum Sheeting Materials for 1st and October 10, 2007/2:00 P.M.

2nd Quarters of CY 2008 Reflective Sheeting Materials for 1st and October 10: 2007/3:30 P.M. 2nd Quarters of CY 2008 Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City on the following schedules to wit

October 23, 2007/10:00 A.M. Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008
Aluminum Sheeting Materials for 1st and
2nd Quarters of CY 2008 October 23, 2007/1:00 P.M. October 23, 2007/3:00 P.M.

and 2nd Quart	ters of CY 2008
All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of	the following form
Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid

- 1			ting Appropriate to me mi		
Ī	1.	Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)		
Г	2.	Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1		
1	3.	Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1		
ı	4.	Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (1009		
_	_	The state of the s			

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on the following schedules at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City, to wit:

Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008 Oclober 23, 2007/10:00 A.M. -Aluminum Sheeting Materials for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008 October 23, 2007/1:00 P.M.

October 23, 2007/3:00 P.M. Reflective Sheeting Materials for 1st and 2nd Quarters of CY 2008 Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the said

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding cess, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability

PAWN BUY SELL

ROLEX. AP Paneral, ones: Cartier, Inc Pater, Bulgari

**SWISS WATCHES** 

**GOLD & BIAMOND SPECIALISTS** 

sec ndo Glorietta

图 894-0282 · 889-7956

Land Transportation Office Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan - Chairman, BAC East Avenue, Quezon City (02) 9219077 - lelefax

Annabella A. Cruz - Chairman, BAC Sub-Committee Property Section, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City (02) 9292015 - telefax

**INVESTORS!** 

**Need YOUR property** 

WWW.SIBONGA.COM

More CLASSIFIED ADS

RSG HONEYCOMB ......A24

LRTA ..... B8

(PDI - October 1, 2007)

**07 URVAN** 

ESCAPADE

10 HOURS

P1,800

WITH DRIVER

7878776/7964377

09213497170

(Sgd.) ATTY, JIMMY G. PESIGAN BAC - Charman



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: llombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.llo.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Printing of Driver's Manual 25,000 copies of Ang Driver Na Pincy b. 32,120 copies of The Filipino Driver's Menuel Repeir of One Roll Coeling Machine

Repair and Rehabilitation of Mechanical Press assigned at PMP

The Land Transportation Office, through the following amount being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the aloresaid projects inlends to apply, to wit.

Printing of Driver's Manual through MVUC Fund:

Printing of Driver's Manual innough Myob Panus.
a. 25,000 copies of Ang Driver Na Pinoy
b. 32,120 copies of The Filipino Driver's Manual
Repeir of One Roll Coating Machine (General Fund 101)
Repair and Rehabilitation of Mechanical Press assigned Php 2,409,000.00 Php 850,000.00 at Plate Making Plant (PMP) (General Fund 101)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/
fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184,
otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino clitzens/
sole propriatorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock
belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or
regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183
(R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the
eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the
Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the postregulations store in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and Inspect the Bidding Documents at the Property Section from October 1, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-Secretariat at the Property Section starting October 1, 2007 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000 00, in the form of cash for each project. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the following schedules at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City, to wit:

October 11, 2007/10:00 A.M. -October 11, 2007/2:00 P.M. -October 11, 2007/3:30 P.M. -

Printing of Oriver's Manual Repair of One Roll Coating Machine Repair and Rehabilitation of Mechanical Press assigned at PMP.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the LTO-Library East Avenue, Quezon City on the

October 24, 2007/10:00 A.M. -Printing of Driver's Manual Repair of One Roll Coating Machine October 24, 2007/1:00 P.M. October 24, 2007/3:00 P.M.

Repair and Rehabilitation of Mechanical Press assigned at PMP.

	Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1.	Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2.	Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)
3.	Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)
4	Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

1/2%) 1/2%)

Bid opening shall be on the following schedules at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City, to wit:

October 24, 2007/10:00 A.M. -Printing of Driver's Manual Repair of One Roll Coating Machine October 24, 2007/1:00 P M October 24, 2007/3:00 P.M. Repair and Rehabilitation of Mechanical Press assigned at PMP.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to atlend at the said

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan - Chaliman, BAC East Avenue, Quezon City

Annabella A. Cruz - Chairman, BAC Sub-Committee Property Section, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City (02) 9292015 – Ielefax

(PDI-October 1, 2007)

ROLEX

JEWELRY DIAMONDS

DCB TRADING INCORPORATED

based in Subic Bay is in urgent need of high caliber

We are looking for one (1) Sales and

Marketing Officer - International

Criteria: - Graduate of Accounting, Management

and Mechanical Engineering

experience on automobiles

Excellent communication skills

Interested applicants may directly apply and/or submit

Lot 2 EMS Area, 14th Gate, Perimeter Rd., Subic

their resume to the address indicated below.

DCB TRADING INCORPORATED

**Human Resources Department** 

Bay Freeport Zone, Zambales

Telefax No.: (047) 252-8040

BUYING

09178884040

3 years of related foreign marketing work

fluent in Nihonggo, Sri lankan and English

individual to join our team.

# WAREHOUSE **FUR LEASE**

: 1,257.50 square meters

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN

(A - 628.75; B - 628.75) Location: 2nd Street corner Tacoma

Port Area, Manila

### FEATURES:

Area

Flood free, 35 feet high cemented floor 24-hour security, no center posts With front and back doors (A & B) Parking available, no truck ban Perimeter fence and lights Berthing space available Between MICT and South Harbor

PLEASE CALL CYNTHIA DURING OFFICE HOURS AT TEL. NOS. 527-2683: 301-1197

### REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST STAFF-RTVM MALACANANG, MANILA

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project

to estimate the first the contact the cont

Specialization in the second section of the second section in the section in the section in the second section in the section in th

Procurement of Various Teleprompting Equipment

Location Approved Budget RTVM Bldg., Gate 6, Malacanang, Manila

for the Contract

Php 3,326,322.00

**Delivery Period** 30 days Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well

fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and

as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	Activities	Date	Time	Place
1)	Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 1-14, 2007	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
2)	Pre-Bidding Conference	Oct. 12, 2007	2:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
3)	Last Day of Submission and Opening of Bids	Oct. 24, 2007	10:00 AM	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents including details of specification will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin. and Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel Nos. 734-5681/735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 700.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or Indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) Melba B. Aligaen **BAC Chairman** 

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 8, 2007)

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Billing Meters for Mactan Economic Zone

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of Php6,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Billing Meters for Mactan Economic Zone. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. The PEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs), certified copy of Phil-GEPS Certificate or Registration, and proof of enrolment with the e-FPS from potential bidders to a eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Billing Meters for Mactan Economic Zone.

Bidders should have completed a single similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC within the last three (3) years and met the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. In addition, bidders must have filed their latest annual income and business the Enginery Octoments. In Bodown, books must have need the latest amount and a second to the submission of bids) via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 7:30 AMto 4:30 PM on 02-15 October 2007. Interested bidders must submit their LOIs, certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration and e-FPS enrolment not later than 15 October 2007 at the address given below and secure the complete set of Bidding Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00.

Bloding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedu fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted. unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least study percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during

The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 16 October 2007 at 2:00 PM at the address given

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 2:00 PM of 08 November 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in amount of not less than 1% of the ABC specific to the line item. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on 08 November 2007, 2:00 PM at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. In case any of the above date/s is declared as a non-working holiday it will automatically be rescheduled on the next working day (same time)

Delivery is required within ninety (90) calendar days from date of receipt of Notice to Proceed. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder

> MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE 6015 Lapu-Lapu City Tel. Nos. (032) 340-0590 to 93 Fax Nos. (032) 340-0594 to 95 Webste: www.peza.gov.ph

> > (Sgd.) BELENA B. SUELLO **BAC Chairman**

(PDI-Oct. 1 & 8, 2007)

K. CHISOTENS CTM/CCTOS-F

- 1 - VALLA MALT WAS ALMOST AND

# People, Events Products

# Leading SEO gurus at confab

THE WORLD'S LEADING EXPERTS IN search engine optimization (SEO) are converging in Manila for a conference that will enable local companies, entrepreneurs and professionals expand their lucrative operations through intelligent and optimum use of the web.

SEO guru Marc Macalua said these visiting experts would show how the Web and search engines could serve as the fastest vehicle to a highly profitable market expansion of businesses, enterprises and professions.

"These experts make up the distinguished panel of speakers at the "Search Engine Marketing Conference (Semcon) Philippines 2007" that will be held at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental on Oct. 9 and 10," said Macalua, himself a speaker and founder of SEO Philippines.

The speakers include popular blogger, author and search engine guru Aaron Wall of SEOBook.com, vice president Prashant Mehta of Yahoo! for emerging markets and monetization, CEO Michael Turner of Harvest SEO.com, Internet marketing consultant Todd Malicoat of Stuntdubl.com, cofounder and search architect Hans Kock of syndeo::media, 2007 SEO World Champion and chief executive officer Benj Arriola of US-based YDS Web Solutions Inc.

Philippines, b5media Inc. channel editor and Inquirer interactive media consultant Jayvee Fernandez, and search engine marketer and pay-per-click expert Elymar Apao of Jozzua.com.

Other speakers are SEO project manager Rhiza Sanchez of MBS Tek Inc, marketing director Andrian Lee of AsiaPay Philippines, IT director and chief information officer Jay Estaris of Century Properties, marketing and Web services head Faith Ponte of Bigfoot Global Solutions Inc, marketing director Dustin Andaya of IslandRose.net, problogger Abe Olandres of Yugatech.com, Web and usability consultant and user group manager Regnard Kreisler C. Raquedan of Adobe User Group-Philippines, and new media director Jose Carlo Medina of Level Up! Games.

### 'Very potent tool'

"These experts will speak on a wide range of topics, including technical details, on how websites can be used as a very potent tool for various purposes, benefiting big companies, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs, business execution/technology/marketing officers, Web

masters and developers, content providers, financial and Internet bankers, IT/MIS managers, cyber lawyers, policy makers, educators, venture capital firms, managing directors and CEOs, direct marketing directors and managers, CRM agency owners, and those who develop and implement business strategies geared towards Internet and digital marketing," Macalua said. More information can be obtained from

SEO Philippines, Fiera de Manila Inc, and IMVSolutions.com Inc (896-0639, 899-6893, 896-0637; fax 896-0637, 890-2101; e-mail fiera@info.com.ph; and Website www.imvsolutions.com).

"Among the topics are the latest factors directly affecting website rankings in search engines like Google, Yahoo! and MSN, what works and what doesn't, stepby-step instruction on the basics of SEO, and the latest techniques to get top rankings for your site," Macalua added.

Also to be discussed are SEO for megasites, tried and tested keyword research tactics, effective Web copywriting, link building tactics and techniques, advance link building strategies, uncovering innovative competitor link strategies, the best of pay-per-click, and its pitfalls, among many

### White Rock Triathlon attracts hardcore athletes

to take on the most prestigious long distance triathlon race in the country, the White Rock Triathlon. This 2007 edition is supported by the White Rock Beach Resort, New Balance, Rush Fitness Water, Fury Eyewear, Fitness First and David's Salon. 112 entries will toe the starting line in the annual swimbike-run endurance test starting from the White Rock Beach Resort in Subic, Zambales. Slated for Oct. 6, the race has attracted international racers from Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Guam. Since

HARDCORE ATHLETES PREPARE 2004, this grueling race has been a mainstay in the local triathlon calendar and is known as the race that truly tests one's mettle in the sport of triathlon. Racers have to ocean swim 2 km at the resort, then ride their bikes for 91 kmpassing through the towns of Subic, Castillejos, San Marcelino, San Narciso, San Felipe, Maloma and Cabangan in the province of Zambales. As if that is not enough, the athletes will need to run 20 km from White Rock Beach Resort to Olongapo and SBMA before they can claim to be triathlon "Rockstars" (term coined for finishers of this event).

### Property festival at SM North Edsa

EX-LINK MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING SERVICES CORP HOLDS the Property Festival at SM North Edsa-East Mall Atrium area from Oct. 4 to 17. An on-site setup of the "Pocket Garden" by My Mother's Garden Design by Vincent Ferrer is also featured. Participants include Filinvest Land Inc (Timberland Heights), Filinvest Land Inc (Promax), Queen Carish Realty, Verdan Point Development Corp, New San Jose (Victoria Towers), New San Jose (Valenzuela Condo), DMCI Homes, IPM Realty and Development Corp, Asian Land Strategies Corp, Century Properties, Edsa Grand Residences, Camella Homes, Phinma Property Holdings Corp, Powerland Realty, and a lot more. The Festival also features free coaching and tips on having home loans sessions and free coaching and tips in getting contractors in building home sessions. For more information, call Ex-Link Corp at 640-7439, 643-3887, or log on to www.exlinkevents.com.

1

PROV. OF ISABELA ..... B8

13:

founder Jonathan Casuncad of SEM Pros

professionals, chief informa-

# Business

# Panalo ka sa kakaibang SIGN MAKING











Roland Soljet Pro II delivers superb graphics fast, your customers will keep coming back!

- prints up to 900sqft/hr at 360 dpi—a billboard every 2-hour 1440 dpi resolution makes it ideal for indoor ads no lamination required unlike with dye-based
- X4 solvent ink costs 80% less than dye · prints on low-cost media — tarpaulin, vinyl sticker, photopaper, backlit film, cloth, plain paper





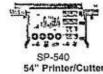


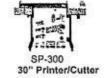














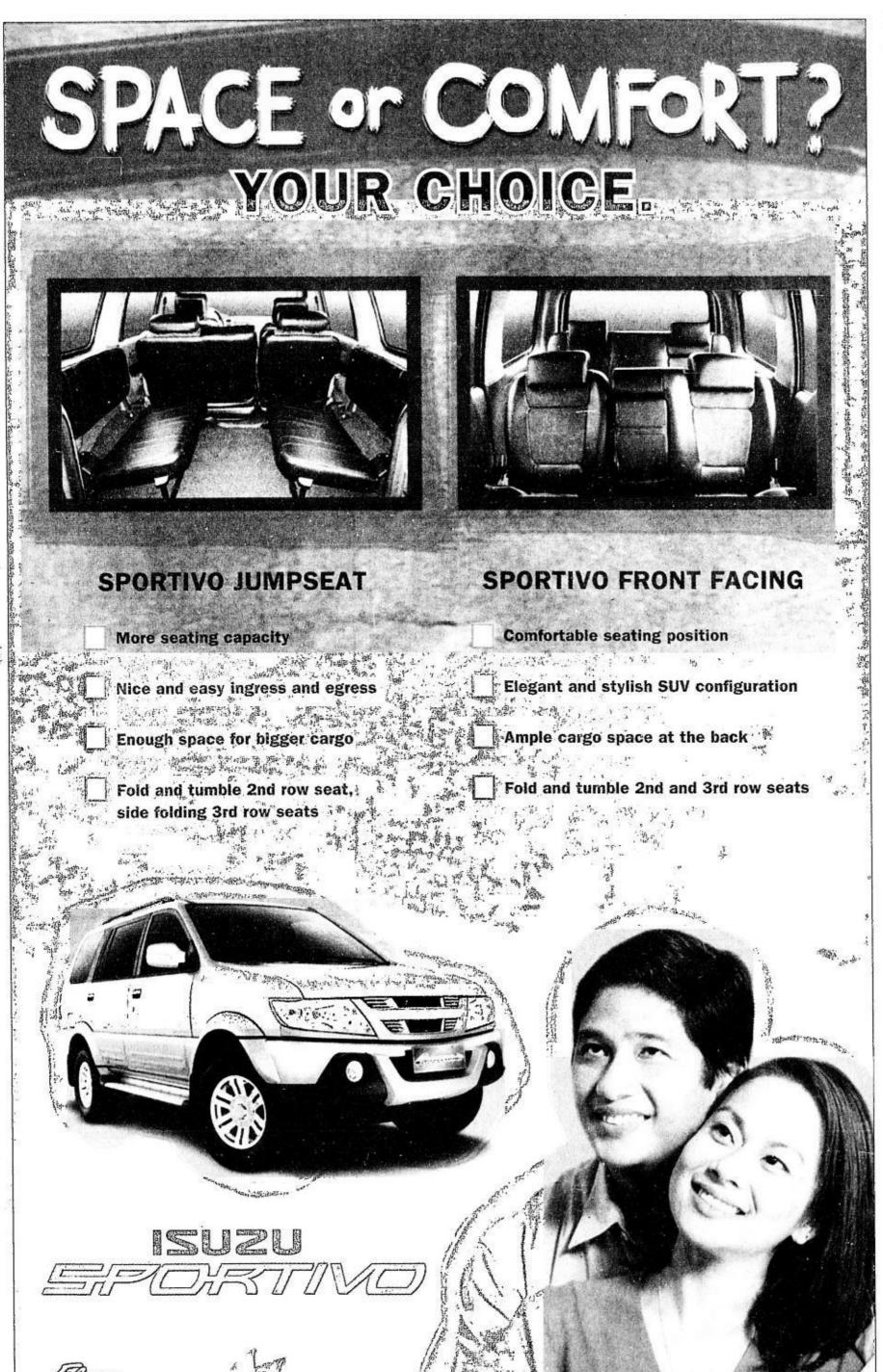






SV-12 12" Cutter

The No. 1 Choice of Signmakers around the World!



# **Del Monte** acquires Indian firm

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SINGAPORE-LISTED PINEAPPLE PRODUCTS distributor Del Monte Pacific Ltd., a majorityowned company of condiments king Joselito Campos Jr. is expanding into the Indian market with the acquisition of a 40-percent stake in a fresh fruits and vegetable exporter.

In a statement released to the Singapore Stock Exchange, Del Monte said Campos, its managing director and CEO, signed last Sept. 28 definitive agreements by which the company would acquire a 40.1-percent interest in FieldFresh Foods Private Limited, an agricultural joint venture between Bharti Enterprises India Ltd. and E.L. Rothschild Ltd.

Del Monte said its effective interest in FieldFresh will be acquired through its purchase of 80.2 percent of E.L. Rothschild, which in turn owns 50 percent of Fieldfresh.

The Rothschild family will remain as a 19.8-percent shareholder in the company which will be renamed DMPL India Limited.

E.L. Rothschild is a private Rothschild family investment company with interests worldwide, including a business which provides growth capital to companies in India's fast growing economy. It also provides Indian companies access to international technology, distribution and brands. It is managed by its founders, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild and Lady Lynn Forrester de Roth-

FieldFresh is currently engaged in growing, packing, marketing and distributing fresh fruits and vegetables for export to Europe and other export markets, as well as for sale in the domestic Indian market. The entry of Del Monte as a strategic partner will give FieldFresh expertise in new crops, as well as in product development, food processing and brand marketing. At the same time, the expanded FieldFresh operation will have access to Del Monte's export marketing network.

# Marco Polo to expand Davao hotel

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DAVAO CITY-MARCO POLO HOTELS Management Ltd. is expanding its facilities here with a convention center and additional rooms as Mindanao's largest city attracts the growing interest of convention organizers and business executives on leisure travel.

Stanley Lau, general manager of Marco Polo Davao, said in an interview the company had not yet set a definite amount to invest but that this was "easily more than P300 million."

"We are still in talks with building designers, but the owners-the Dominguez family through Halifax Capital Resources Inc.-have given instructions toward expansion as soon as possible," Lau said. "Money is not an issue."

He said the priority is to build a convention center that could accommodate 1,000 people at a time and possibly 100 additional rooms.

Marco Polo Davao's existing 18-story building has 245 rooms and a ballroom that is big enough for 500 people.

Lau, a native of Hong Kong where MPHML is based, said the planned new building would rise on a vacant lot at the back of the hotel. "Our priority is a new and larger conven-

tion venue and its design would determine the number of the additional rooms," he The veteran hotelier said between 70

percent and 80 percent of Marco Polo Davao's existing rooms were occupied, which "are quite healthy numbers."

At the same time, Lau said the firm has been spending on sprucing up the nineyear-old hotel, including the repainting of the exterior areas as well as the refurbishing of the rooms.

"We have been doing this little by little [over] the past two years, starting with the topmost floors," he said.

Further, Marco Polo expects to finish work on a P50-million recreation complex on its fourth floor by yearend.

Having been soft-launched in August during the local Kadayawan festival, the complex called The Deck comprises a restaurant, a function room, a spa and a fitness center that includes a 25-meter swimming pool.

"All of these are part of our efforts to offer amenities that would provide the pampering and indulgence that our market wants," Lau said.

"This is also a strong statement from us about the opportunities that we see as Davao City starts to realize its potential as big tourist drawer," he said.

METRO MANILA ALABANG Tel: (02) 8571788 - COMMONWEALTH Tel: (02) 9522760 EDSA To: (02) 4104837 to 38 · MAKATI Tol: (02) 6179995 · MANILA Tel. (02) 5624691 to 15 - PASIG Tel. (02) 6713434 - QUEZON AVERUE Tel: (02) 9207111

LUZON BATANGAS Tel: (043) 7781227 • BULACAN Tel: (02) 2998506 • CABANATUAN Tel: (044) 4638216 • CAVITE Tel: (02) 7505628 • ISABELA Tel: (078) 6522030 • PAMPANGA Tel: (045) 9817880 • SAN PABLO Tel: (049) 5629986 • PANGASINAN Tel: (075) 5234825

VISHIN RACOLOG Tel: (034) 4412050 - CAGAYAN DE ORO Tel: (088) 8561892 DAVAO Tel: (082) 2973344 ILOILO Tel: (033) 5087877 MANDAUE/CEBU Tel: (032) 3463090

Manufactured and distributed by: Isuzu Philippines Corporation Tel. No. (049) 5410224 • Fax Nos. 8420202, (049) 5410333 www.isuzuphil.com

### Market bullish on Avant

Own a unit at Avant at The Fort with prices starting at ₱ 11,650.00/month\*

\*The low DP scheme for a 36sg.m. studio unit

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007 PHILIPPINE D'AILY INQUIRER

Weibsite: www.inquirer.net/business E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margina Quimpo-Espino



Brittany BEAUTHFUL A Vista Land Company



AT THE FORT

Demand for Prime Green on the rise

Don't miss out on the opportunity to own a unit at Avant at The Fort, perhaps the last remaining prime green living space in Bonifacio Global City's Crescent Park West.

Call 838 0558 • 837 3851



ZOBEL de Ayala

# Leets highest alumni ward from Harvard

'Success entails combining profitability with a broader contribution to society

AIME AUGUSTO ZOBEL DE AYALA, CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUtive of Ayala Corp., has become the first Filipino to receive the highest achievement award for a graduate of Harvard Business School.

Zobel is also theyoungest alumnus to receive the Alum-Achievement Award from Har-Business School, which gives the award annually "distinguished graduates who have contributed significantly to their companies and communities while upholding the highest standards and values."

According to the award-giving council, "the outstanding men and women who receive this most important honor represent the best in the alumni body and inspire all those who aspire to have an impact on business and soci-

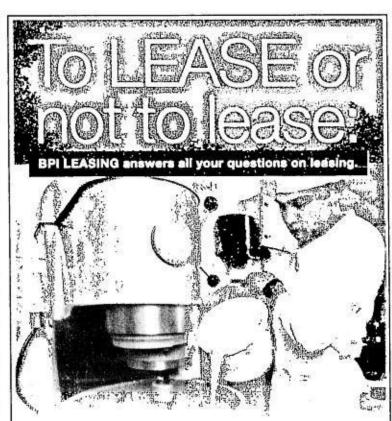
Zobel received a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School in 1987. He had graduated from Harvard College in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in Economics, cum laude.

In between those years, he worked overseas before joining the Ayala group of companies, where he held several line positions.

Today, together with his younger brother Fernando, who serves as president and chief operating officer of Ayala Corp., Zobel is credited for the Ayala group's successes in telecommunications and water distribution as well as its continued successes in real estate development and financial services.

### Recipients

The first to receive the Harvard School Business Alumni Achievement Award was Robert McNamara, in 1968, when he was president of the World Bank. Other outstanding recipients since then have ZOBEL B2-2



# Leasing vs. Buying

What is the main difference between leasing and buying? Leasing and buying are two different methods of acquiring assets. The former finances the USE of an asset while the latter finances the OWNERSHIP of an asset.

What is the effect of owning an asset on your capital? When you buy, you are giving your money away in exchange for the asset, which means you are tying up your capital over a period of time. Leasing does not have the same effect on your capital. Rather than investing the full amount at the beginning, your lease rentals allow for deferred payments tailored to your specific needs.

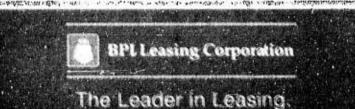
What other advantages does leasing have over buying? At the end of the lease, you can return the asset or enter into a new lease for an upgraded model. This gives you a better

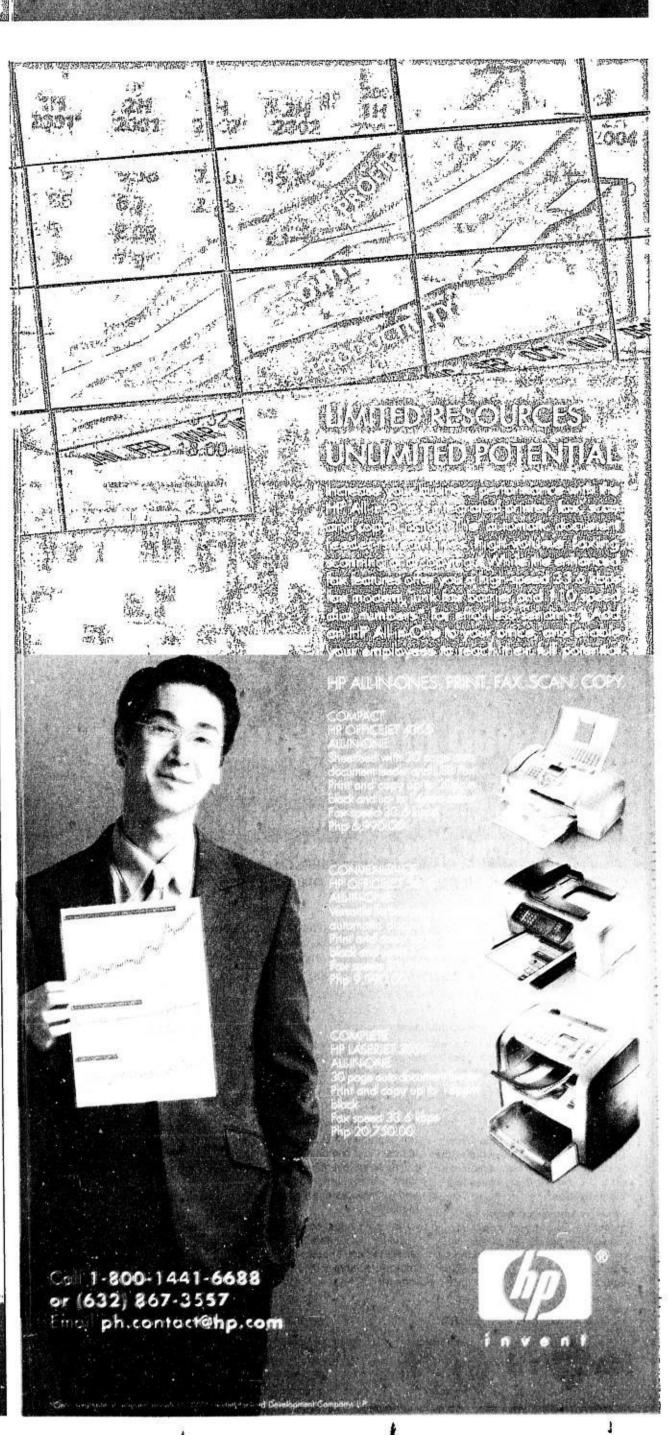
For a more detailed explanation of what we offer, and if you want us to come up with a leasing plan tailored to your company's needs, we will be more than happy to send a representative to your office.

operating lease are fully tax-deductible.

- . CONSERVE CAPITAL by avoiding outright purchases that can tie up
- your company's funds in depreciating assets. . PRESERVE YOUR BANK CREDIT LINES for other purposes.
- ENJOY TAX-TIMING BENEFITS because tax rental payments under an
- SIMPLIFY YOUR BUDGET with the fixed lease rental that protects your cash flow projections from Inflation or fluctuations in interest rates. **ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE AND SAVINGS OF AUTOMATIC DEBIT** ARRANGEMENT that simplifies multiple penodic payments under
- AVOID EXPENSIVE MORTGAGE REGISTRATION COSTS because untike a loan, leasing generally does not require any collateral

Contact the leader in leasing, BPI LEASING CORPORATION, at 845-5630; 816-9261; or 816-9124.





# Zobel gets highest alumni award... From page B2-1

# **BUSINESS***Monday*

included Daniel Burke, chair and CEO emeritus of Johnson & Johnson; Dr. Damiel Vasella, chair and CEO of Novartis AG; Ratan Tata, chair of India's Tata group; Louis Gerstners Jr., former chair and chief executive of IBM; Phillip Yeo, chair of Sing a-

pore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research; and Minoru Makihara, former chair of Mitsubishi Corp.

To Zobel and this year's four other recipients, the awards were presented at Harvard on Sept. 27 in a ceremony hosted by Prof. Jay O. Light, dean of Harvard Business School.

The other recipients were Donna Dubinsky of Numenta, an intelligent-computing software firm; A. M. Mixon III of Invacare Corp., the world's leading manufacturer and distributor of home healthcare products; Sir Martin Sorrell of global advertising company WPP Group PLC; and Hansjoerg Wyss of Synthes Inc., manufacturer and distributor of orthopedic implants and instruments.

### Ideal candidate

To Zobel, Professor Light said: "The impact you have had through Ayala Corp. makes you an ideal candidate. This award is a symbol of Harvard's appreciation of the standard you have set."

That standard has deep roots in the Ayala group-in the values and principles it stands for, as much as in its history and track record.

It is reflected in a remark Zobel made when he accepted the Management Man of the Year award: "Success is not measured by quick and one-time gains but by enduring beliefs and created by a disciplined approach to creating value. Second, success also entails combining profitability with a broader contribution to society."

old Ayala group are well known, as are its wide-ranging contributions to social development. But not always seen are the ways it has affected countless Filipino lives and many communities.

While Ayala has always chosen to engage itself actively in the national development process, it continues to take this step further by finding solutions to various socioeconomic challenges. enterprising ipinos—from merchants and ser- was founded vice providers at the Ayala malls, to microfinance institutions through Bank of the Philippine Islands, and to small en- retaining the trepreneurs that rely on Globe Telecom Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. for their livelihood-are able to nurture their dreams through the Ayala group.

Similarly far-reaching are the group's sustained actions to promote education in training student leaders, providing elementary education and spearheading the multisector initiative called Gearing up Internet Literacy and Access for Students, or Gilas, which helps to provide Internet access and basic computer literacy programs for students in all Philippine public high schools.

For certain, these social development contributions wouldn't be possible without the business successes, but the correlation between the two is deliberate, and has been rooted in the Ayala group's nearly two-century Philippine heritage.

Zobel calls Ayala's social development work "promoting the public good through the benefits of excellent professional management."

That is a well-appreciated statement of underlying characteristics that exhibit the conglomerate's long-term vision and commitment to national development.

### The public's trust

The corporate professionalism and the social commitment have given Ayala a most solid reputation for integrity, and over many decades earned the public's trust for the Ayala brand.

"Building on trust has enabled us to mobilize talent and to bring together the best people to cater to an increasingly diverse array of customer needs," Zobel says.

It has also enabled Ayala to build capital and bring in some of the world's most respected corporations-including Mitsubishi Corp., Singapore Telecom and Development Bank of Singapore, among others-as strategic partners.

With its "human capital"-a highly empowered organization-and strong, global partners, the Ayala group today includes four listed corporations (Ayala Land, Bank of Philippine Islands, Globe Telecom and Manila Water) and accounts for about onethird of the Philippine Stock Exchange in-

Zobel pays tribute, first, to his father, Jaime

Zobel de Ayala-who was voted Management Man of the Year in 1987-for decentralizing the group management structure in the 1980s and building the management foundations of present-day Ayala.

Second, he cites the leadership sharing he has with his brother, Fernando-"in an arrangement that it not very common in public, private or family institutions ... The Ayala of today would not be where it is without the leadership Fernando has provided on myriad fronts and for his equal participation in decisions I have made."

And he acknowledges the group's organization-and the macro context in which it functions.

"Leadership," he says, "depends on the corporate context, economic history and organizational capability of any institu-

"Beneath the bright surface of performance of any business leader is the solid substance built by a longer history of a larger community of talented, motivated and disciplined executives that made such performance possible," he adds.

The Ayala group "collective wisdom, drive and vision shape and constantly refresh my own," Zobel says. "At the most senior level, we take pride in working as colleagues and partners, whether one works at the holding company or at the operating

"We like to encourage a spirit of collegiality, sharing and constructive criticism. The best ideas that flow out are certainly not always mine and the many backgrounds and experiences of our executive rank are too The business successes of the 173-year- valuable to be kept limited in specific roles."

### Ayala's evolution

'A company

with a long

history

[needs to]

keep fresh

the energies

on which it

while

enduring

values that

The Ayala group itself has changed in character over the years, Zobel observes. In the past century, what had started as an agriculture- and trading-based group grew into a major Philippine manufacturing and services

The Ayala group started investing in sectors that have become its core businesses well before Zobel joined it in 1981. It pioneered in real estate development in 1960 and modern banking in 1970. It went into telecommunications in 1974 and electronics manufacture in 1988. As its platform for social development contribution, it established in 1961 what has become Ayala Foundation.

define it' And then, "the world changed on us," Zobel recalls. "Competition in real estate exploded. The banking and telecom sectors were liberalized and new markets were created by the resurgence of new technologies. Globalization altered most of the landscape ... And corporate social responsibility moved

into the center of business concerns. "History is not destiny," Zobel says. "The challenge for a company with a long history is how to keep fresh the energies on which it was founded while retaining the enduring values that define it. For the Ayala group, the challenge has been how to keep succeeding in changing times by building on the fundamental strengths with which

we began." Today the Ayala group focuses on three major businesses-real estate, financial services and telecom-plus emergent businesses in electronics manufacturing, technology investments, water distribution, automotive dealerships, international real estate markets and business processing outsourcing.

Zobel is also chair of Globe Telecom, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Integrated Microelectronics Inc.; vice chair of Ayala Land Inc.; and co-vice chair of Ayala Foundation. He is a member of the JP Morgan International Council, Mitsubishi Corp. International Advisory Committee, Toshiba International Advisory Group, Asia Business Council, Harvard University Asia Center Advisory Committee and the board of trustees of the Asian Institute of Manage-

He also serves on the national council of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-US), and chairs WWF Philippines.

The involvement in the environmental movement is one of the ways Zobel demonstrates his personal profound concern for the planet and future generations. And among underprivileged children in the Philippines, is perhaps the most recognizable face of Children's Hour, of which he is

In all likelihood, it is a concern that the For the corporate and other triumphs, Harvard Business School award-giving council shares.



OFFICERS and staff of the GfK Custom Research Philippines, a German market research firm first established in the Philippines in 1997, will be celebrating its 10th year anniversary on Oct. 2, with a thanksgiving celebration for its valued clients from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Bahia of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Maltati City. Speakers are from GfK Germany and China.





OCT. 03 (WED) | 1:30 PM TO 5:30 PM | PHILAM LIFE THEATER UN AVENUE

With today's crowded arena, creating brands that resonate genuine consumer needs and stand out amongst competition become a challenge. How do you systematically make strategic moves that render competition irrelevant?

The business arena is fair game to everyone. But some win and some do not. What makes winners win?

### PROGRAMME CONCEPT

"Stand Out" is the fusion of two strategic topics that features the rare tandem between the country's sole official lecturer on Blue Ocean Strategy, Josiah Go, and sought-after motivational speaker and best-selling author Francis Kong.

### KEY BENEFITS

The participant will gain: -understanding in using Blue Ocean Strategy tools and frameworks as the blueprint behind the formulation of a brand's short-term strategies and future direction

-better awareness of perceiving oneself as a brand and employing strategies to accelerate career advancement but more importantly to creatively work with those who really matter.

MARKETING SPONSORS:

Your company will gain:

-an appreciation of the revolutionary mindset that competition can indeed be made irrelevant with the creation of uncontested market space through the tools and frameworks embedded in Blue Ocean Marketing

-greater individual contribution brought about by tools, behavior and attitude that create results, based on principles of intrapreneurship rooted on building lives as

MEDIA PARTNERS:

Fillightelight

AV PARTNER:

DON'T MISS OUT!

RESERVE

YOUR SEAT

NOW!

ON-SITE: P 1,800

ACADEME:

P 1,200 upon

presentation of ID

card

CALL 8282038,

8282040 loc 103 or

**EMAIL** us at

markprof.foundation

@gmail.com to

reserve your seat.

Full proceeds of

this seminar will

go to Markprof

Foundation.

Visit website at

www.markprof.org



# October is Intellectual Property Rights Month.

Know what IPR is all about.

# What is IPR?

IPR stands for Intellectual Property Rights which are the exclusive rights given to the inventors for their innovations and creations. These rights are protected by the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines or Republic Act No.8293.

# What is copyright?

Copyright subsists from the moment the work is created.

The domain of copyright extends to literary and artistic works including computer programs, multimedia work and databases.

# What constitutes copyright violations?

If a person or entity illegally copies, reproduces, distributes or uses software programs without the copyright holder's permission.

# What are the consequences for breaching the IP Code?

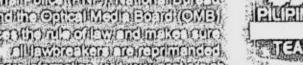
Offenders may be imprisoned for a maximum of nine years and fined up to P1,500,000.



The Business Software Alliance (BSA) supports IPR month BSA is the foremost organization dedicated to promoting a safe and legal digital world

Lahating phalating software kulong Paulkaw

Filliping V of Hair system (FAPI) (Clibosopy and collection of the long of the light of the compensation (it is is in light) (FAPI) (Clibosopy and (Clibosop







The Optical Medical Second (OMB) contents and the company of the optical formation of the content of the conten

# **IPR***Updates*

# PAPT arrests 8 people in software piracy raids

Wednesday, July 04, 2007

Labora and a string of the string of the

anila, Philippines - Acting on the reports received through the website of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT), agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's Anti-Economic Crimes Task Force (CIDG-AECTF) of the Philippine National Police arrested 8 people during their raids against Internet cafes in Cebu and Davao.

café and Lafia Internet café in Davao City for alleged use of unlicensed software in the computers that they are renting to customers. John Radley Barrientos, owner of Clickerz, and Theophilus Ike Adimoha, owner of Lafia, were arrested during the raids conducted against their respective businesses. Giovanni Formentera, technician of Lafia was also arrested.

Police operatives were able to seize 26 computers from Clickerz and 60 from Lafia, all loaded with pirated software programs with an estimated value of almost 3.8 million pesos. Upon 15 from Golden Circle, all loaded with

The police raided Clickerz Internet arrest, Adimoha was claiming that he was duped by Formentera and that he was not aware that the software installed in his computers was pirated. However, he refused to file charges against Formentera when asked by the police to do so.

> Hours after the Davao raids, the CIDG-AECTF simultaneously raided three Internet cafes in Cebu, also for software piracy. Raided were Top One Internet café, SofTouch Internet café and Golden Circle Internet café, all located along Junquera Street in Cebu City. The police seized 38 computers from Top One, 27 from SofTouch and

pirated software amounting to almost 2.8 million pesos. The couple Jed and Jocelyn Rafols, SofTouch owners, Raymond Soriano, Top One owner, Teodoro Bacalla, Top One shop attendant and Mark Ganate, Golden Circle shop attendant were arrested for questioning.

"These people that we arrested are suspected of violating the IP Code of the Philippines. Software piracy is a crime and as enforcers of the law, we are determined to arrest people who use pirated software in their busisaid PSSupt. Noel delos Executive Officer Reyes, spokesperson of the CIDG-AECTF.

Software piracy is a crime and as enforcers of the law, we are determined to arrest people who use pirated software in their business

### NBI raids user of pirated software in Cavite Economic Zone

Tuesday, April 03, 2007

Manila, Philippines - The Intellec-tual Property Rights Division (IPRD) of the National Bureau of Investigation raided a Korean company locat-ed inside Cavite Economic Zone for suspected use of pirated software programs in its business.



The NBI acted on a complaint by the Business Software Alliance (BSA) on reports received through the BSA anti-piracy hotline that Headline I & C (Phils.), Inc. is allegedly using pirated software programs of Autodesk, Adobe and Microsoft. With a search warrant iscrosort. With a search warrant issued by the Honorable Mercedes
Posada-Lacap, 2nd Vice-Executive
Judge of Manila RTC Branch 15, the
NBI seized 32 units of desktop cornputers and several compact disc installers containing unauthorized reproductions and unlicensed copies
of Autodesk, Adobe and Microsoft software programs which amounted to almost Php 3.3 million.

# PAPT STRENGTHENS ITS GRIP AGAINST SOFTWARE PIRACY

Anti-piracy team sweeps software pirates in the South

Friday, June 01, 2007

Cebu City, Philippines- The fight to eradicate software piracy remains challenging, but not impossible. This is the stand of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT), a government-led initiative composed of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Optical Media Board (OMB) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) created to increase awareness and respect for intellectual property rights and promote the use of licensed software to foster growth of the Philippines local software industry.

The members of the PAPT conducted series of raids against business establishments in the South allegedly distributing and using unlicensed software. Operatives of the NBI - Intellectual Property Rights Division raided Cannon Creek Asia Inc. and Design Editions, both located in Mandaue City, Cebu. The raid resulted to the seizure of unlicensed software installers and 82 computers loaded with unlicensed software belonging to Adobe Corporation and Microsoft, Inc. amounting to PhP 9 million. The OMB raided optical media stalls in Cebu City including Goldisc Digital Multimedia, Marksman Superbit Shop and YFG Merchandising. The raid resulted to the seizure of 200 sacks of pirated software programs. On the other hand, the PNP-CIDG's Anti-Economic Crimes Task Force raided Clickers Café and Lafia Internet Café in Davao City and Top One Internet Café, Soft Touch Internet Café and Golden Circle Internet Café in Cebu City. The police were able to seize 86 computers in Davao and 80 computers in Cebu loaded with pirated software.

"We are adopting an all-out campaign against software piracy. Business establishments should realize that our activities are not just concentrated in Metro Manila. We are also actively doing enforcement actions in

other key cities," said Atty. Jose Justo Yap, head of the NBI-Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD).

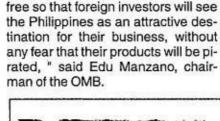
Since its launch in 2005, the PAPT intensified its campaigns against IPR violation and has conducted simultaneous enforcement actions against businesses engaging in software piracy. For the first quarter of 2007, the PAPT has conducted numerous successful raids against business establishments that continue to use and distribute pirated software. The raids have already resulted in the confiscation of more than PhP 24 million worth of illegal software. Most of these raids were the results of reports received through the PAPT website.

The PAPT also recognizes that some companies might be unwitting victims of software piracy. The PAPT, through the initiative of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Division (AFC-CD), has sent out letters to business establishments advising them to do an inventory of their software acquisition and usage to ensure legality of

their software programs. The PAPT has also made available the free service of the PAPT Technical Inspection Panel (P-TIP) which aims to assist companies in determining if the software programs that they are using are licensed or not

"The report may be unsubstantiated, but there is still that possibility that these businesses that were reported to the website may have indeed been a victim of software piracy without their knowledge. As such, the PAPT encourages companies to self-regulate and protect their businesses against the detrimental effects of using pirated software," said PSSupt. Noel O. Delos Reyes, head of the CIDG-AFCCD.

"Piracy has been a menace to our country. The government is determined to make the country piracy-





### CIDG Raids Erring Internet Café Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Cebu City, Philippines - Agents of the Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Division (AFCCD) of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) swooped down on the Cyber Java Internet Café in Cebu City. Allegedly, the said internet café was engaged in the illegal and unauthorized reproduction, use and rental of software programs. The Manila-based law enforcers were backed-up by agents of the 7th Regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit under Police Senior Superintendent Jose Jorge E. Corpuz were not present when the raid was conducted.

During the raid on Cyber Java Internet Café, the police was also accompanied by a local representative of Microsoft for Visayas and Mindanao. The AFCCD requires the IP owner or its duly authorized representative to be present during the actual raid because the AFCCD usually makes arrests during such operations as part of its campaign to make IP violations a 'high risk' activity for perpetrators.

The offending internet cafe was located inside the SM City, Cebu. This was not the first time that the police targeted a business establishment inside an SM mall. Last year, AFCCD agents also conducted separate raids against stores selling and hard-loading pirated software at the SM North EDSA and SM Iloilo City.

### Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team starts crackdown on users/ sellers of pirated software in Davao City

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Davao City, Philippines - Continuing its fight against Intellectual Property (IP) piracy, a team from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Division (CIDG-AFCCD) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) raided two users and a seller of illegal software in Davao City. The police conducted simultaneous raids against two Internet cafes and another raid on a computer store.

Raided were the BOYZTREK and SPA NET Internet Cafés for allegedly using unlicensed software. The TELE-TEXT Enterprises, on the other hand, was raided for allegedly selling pirated software. Police confiscated total of 136 computers and several optical discs containing pirated software as well as other computer peripherals estimated to be worth more than 4 million pesos. The raids were carried out on the strength of the search warrants issued by Executive Judge Reynaldo G.



Ros of the Manila Regional Trial Court.

"We have been doing such raids against business establishments that are engaged in the use and/or sale of pirated software as a result of leads provided us through the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT) website. In fact. my field investigators are now in the process of verifying allegations that certain call centers and banks are not using licensed software", said Police Senior Superintendent Noel delos Reyes, head of the CIDG-AFCCD.

### Call center raided by NBI for use of unlicensed software

Wednesday, May 02, 2007

Makati City, Philippines - A Kore-an company operating as a "call center" in Makati City was raided by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for allegedly using unlicensed business software programs.

Raided was Jigu Corpora-tion/Widespace, located at 2/F & Unit 3-B, 3/F, D'Metyang's Building, 5064 P. Burgos St. corner Guanzon St., Makati City, after investigations



revealed that the company has been using unlicensed copies of Mi-crosoft Windows and Office.

### NBI raids two companies in Cebu for software piracy Total of 82 computers seized

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

Cebu City - The National Bureau of Investigation raided two companies in Cebu City for alleged use of unlicensed software. Agents from the Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) of the NBI raided Cannon Creek Inc., an outsourcing company that prepares right ups for companies through internet research and Design Editions International Inc. which manufactures and designs furniture.

After thorough investigation, the NBI-IPRD was able to gather enough evidence confirming the allegation and secure search warrants from Judge Marino dela Cruz of Manila RTC Branch 22. NBI-IPRD agents flew directly from Manila to serve the search warrant to Cannon Creek Inc. located at E.S. Fortuna St., Mandaue



City and Design Editions International Inc. at A.C. Cortez St., Mandaue City.

A total of 82 computers operating with unlicensed software belonging to Adobe Corporation and Microsoft, Inc. amounting to 9 million pesos were seized from the alleged infringing companies, 70 of which were seized from Cannon Creek Inc. while 12 were from Design Editions International Inc.



# **FILINVEST:**

# Building the Filipino Dream

Having a place to stay and be protected from outside elements is a basic necessity. That is why, regardless of social and financial status, owning a home is on top of everyone's wish list. From ordinary people earning regular wages to overseas contract workers earning hard-earned dollars.



For over 50 years, Filinvest Land has fulfilled its commitment in building the Filipino dream. Over 1,500 hectares of land has been transformed mainly into residential communities located in. Metro Manila and key cities nationwide. At present, more than 100,000 satisfied families are enjoying their everyday life at our best value neighborhoods that comes complete with exclusive amenities and facilities.

Filinvest also developed innovative communities like the Asenso Village which are intended for budding entrepreneurs. Now they have the convenience of having a home and business under one roof.

The company also expanded its market reach by tapping high growth regional centers. There is an ongoing expansion at North Luzon with the development of Somerset Lane in Tarlac and Hampton Orchards and Claremont in Pampanga as well as West Palms in Puerto Princesa.

Aside from communities, Filinvest has developed township developments like Filinvest East County, Ciudad de Calamba and Timberland Heights where



Start living in your dream home with Filinvest Land's low 10% Down Payment Bank Financing Plan!

Also check out our EZ Home Credit In-house Financing Plan

Low fixed 11.5% interest rate for the 1st 5 years
Up to 25 years in-house financing

\*Computation is based on an P800,000 loan under the low 10% down payment bank financing plan. Other conditions apply.

Get a closer look at our house models. Call now for tripping schedules!

721.5842 www.filinvest.com.ph FILINVEST

Batangas • Bulacan • Cavite • Cebu • Davao • Laguna • Palawan • Pampanga • Quezon City • Rizal • Tarlac • Zamboanga

establishments are just a stone throw away from their homes.

Filinvest has also raised the bar for leisure lifestyles with residential resort communities like Laeuna de Taal, Seascapes Resort Town in Mactan, Cebu and Kembali Coast in Samal Island, Davao. High standards of living deserve world-class homes like the premier Brentville International, home of Brent International School.

With all these choices, Filinvest Land continues to live up to its motto – "We Build the Filipino Dream."

### Two Financing Schemes

Great news to everyone who's planning on buying a dream home! Filinvest Land has launched two financing schemes that will definitely make owning a home easier and more affordable.

Take advantage of Filinvest Land's low 10% down payment bank financing plan.

Imagine a monthly amortization of Php 8,132.00 for your dream home!

Also check out the EZ Home Credit Inhouse Financing Plan that offers fixed interest rates and long payment terms for your house and lot.

Thinking about your dream home is a thing of the past. Start owning a house at convenient locations like Quezon City, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, Pampanga, Palawan, Cebu and Davao.

For more details, call us at 721-5842.
Or log on to www.filinvest.com.ph

\*Computation is based on an P800,000 loan under the low 10% down payment bank financing plan. Other conditions apply.



Inquirer's INQuest Adventure strikes gold

WHO KNEW THAT A REVOLUtionary idea launched by one of the oldest forms of mass media-the newspaper-would be awarded for its creative use of the most modern of today's media, the Internet and mobile phone?

Washing the re

The Philippine Daily Inquirer's most ambitious marketing program "INQuest: The Philippine Daily Inquirer Adventure," was recognized for just that, as it was given the highest honor in the first-ever Boomerang Awards 2007 by the Internet and Mobile Marketing Association of the Philippines (IMMAP).

The INQuest Adventure, the first of its kind in the Philippines, is a murder-mystery multimedia game which bested other entries for the Gold Grand Boomerang Award, given to the Internet and mobile marketing campaign that most strategically utilized the Web, SMS/MMS along with other digital media.

A creative collaboration between the Inquirer's marketing group and Euro RSCG 4D, the INQuest Adventure was also shortlisted as one of the Euro RSCG global network's 12 best in the world coming from over 1,500 entries in a network-wide search for the most creative business ideas executed using thinking.

The marketing challenge was high impact campaign.



to revive the interest of young readers who now prefer mobile technology and the Internet as their sources of news and information by transforming a perceived passive medium like print into a more engaging and interactive experience.

Taking over a year to develop, the INQuest Adventure was inspired by the popularity of adventure/mystery/reality shows like "The Amazing Race," "CSI" and "24" among the target market, combined with a plot that touched on the youth's inquisitive nature, and communicated through a multimedia platform-integrating the use of TV, cinema, print, raon-ground activities, innovative high-level creative SMS/MMS, interactive/website, online and outdoor media into a

The INOuest Adventure was a fictional mystery series of a man's murder, told through the pages of the Inquirer-wherein the investigator was the reader himself.

The object of the game was for "INOuestors" to follow the story and play detective, helping solve the mystery by looking for clues disguised as news and feature articles scattered in the different sections of the INQUIR-ER, then subsequently answering the question at the end of each chapter.

Correct answers sent through SMS gave participants chances to win digital gadgets and let them earn rewards points to be redeemed for premium items. On top of all these, identifying the murderer gave participants

a shot at winning P100,000 in the grand draw.

The INQuest Adventure provided a channel for the INQUIRER to understand and learn more about the youth and in turn, use such information in the development of future projects that would cater to this eclectic target market.

By the end of its four-month run, over 25,000 game registrants became part of the IN-QUIRER's active database, exceeding targets by over 25 percent. The game's website www.inquestor.com generated over 4.2 million hits and was averaging 19,000 hits per day at 18 minutes per visit, including hardcore participants who actively joined in the online chats and forums.

CALTEX

COBY

ties such as parties and mock police briefings attracted big crowds and drew interest from over 100,000 people.

Ultimately, the INQuest Adventure was able to effectively connect and capture the youth market and at the same time, allowed the Inquirer to evolve into a more contemporary, progressive and relevant news brand.

Euro RSCG Manila managing director and chief creative officer Norman Agatep, his creative team comprised of art director Beth Luna and senior copywriter Cathleen Giongco, as well as accounts servicing director Agnes Dioso and business unit head Bambie Paguia were on hand to receive the award during the Boomerang Awards ceremony held at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

According to IMMAP, every entry was closely evaluated by an international panel of judges comprised of prominent and credible marketing experts and new media specialists from the United States, Australia, China, Singapore and the Philippines.

Boomerang Awards juror Rob Martin Murphy, who is the executive creative director of The Furnace Australia and manytime recipient and juror of such prestigious international awards as Cannes, Clio, One Show and London Internation-

al, and one of the key speakers during the Boomerang awards night, congratulated the INQUIR-ER and Euro RSCG 4D for promoting a classic whodunit albeit with a local flavor.

Other top winners of the event were the Department of Tourism (DOT) "The Philippines: Explore. Experience. Return." (PEER) Free Flight Promo which won the Gold Cyber Boomerang Award and is also a project spearheaded by Euro RSCG 4D in partnership with DOT, and Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines Inc. "Gatorade Get Into the NBA" Promo 2 which received the Gold Mobile Device Boomerang Award.

The IMMAP Boomerang Awards is the first in the country to showcase and give recognition to outstanding marketing campaigns that have utilized the Internet and mobile devices as central marketing tools-beyond the traditional media of print, television and radio-to meet business objectives in the most creative and breakthrough manner.

It was the highlight of the two-day Internet and Mobile Marketing Summit which brought together international and local industry figures and companies to discuss interconnection, integration and innovation in the world of Internet and mobile.

# Top world cardiac surgeon to give RP business a heart

Evelyn R.

Singson

HE REGARDS HIMSELF AS A those diagnosed. Dr. Shetty's cardiac surgeon in a heartless solution is simple yet bold: world. To nearly 20,000 of In- Bring the mountain to Modia's poorest whom he has hammed. touched and cured, he is god

personified. Much like his forpatient, mer Teresa, Mother his mission is saintly: To save the world.

Bangalorebased Dr. Devi Shetty, Prasad founder Hru-Narayana dayalaya Institute of Medical Sciences, is arriving in Manila this week to share the

secrets to his success in combining medicine and technology in one of the poorest places on Earth: India.

The British-trained cardiologist is one of 13 worldrenowned business leaders and visionaries speaking at the 6th Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) International CEO Conference at the Makati Shangri-La this October 2-3.

This will be a rare occasion for Filipino medical practitioners to learn valuable lessons from Dr. Shetty's experience in making healthcare available to the masses.

Dr. Shetty and his team at the Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute have been saving the lives of thousands of heart patients in India-almost half of whom are children and babies-who get mostly free or subsidized treatment, regardless of economic status or geographic location.

The mechanics of heart surgery, Dr. Shetty believes, are easy-it's the cost that

Every year, two-and-a-half million Indians need to undergo a heart operation. They are three times more genetically prone to heart diseases than Australians, Americans or Europeans. Yet few can afford even basic healthcare, let alone heart surgery.

less than half of a percent of numbers (632) 751-1149.)

His Narayana Hrudayalaya Hospital set up a network of coro-MAPPING nary care units in remote govern-THE FUTURE

hospitals ment around India. These are all video-linked via satellite to the hospital in Bangalore—allowing him to consult pa-

tients in far-flung rural areas who otherwise would never have access to specialist medi-

cal advice. "The beauty

telemedicine is that it makes ordinary doctors do extraordinary things," Dr. Shetty said in an interview with an Indian daily.

Many of his grateful patients from India's lower castes have deified Dr. Shetty as a result. He has also launched a health insurance program that benefits two million farmers. Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship in India named him "Social Entrepreneur of the Year" for his exemplary contribution to giving the poorest of Indians

access to quality healthcare. "Winning the award will help us to get recognition internationally. It will help us in setting up a chain of heart hospitals in Asia and Africa," the heart doctor said.

For Dr. Shetty, a perfect India would be the day when every person is carrying a smart card that gives him/her access to hi-tech healthcare in any part of the world with dignity, writes Financial Express of India.

(Those interested to see and hear Dr. Shetty and other top business leaders and visionaries shaping today's global business may register online for the 6th MAP International CEO Conference at www.mapceo-Currently, those who un- conference.com or call the dergo the operation make up MAP Secretariat at telephone



All these at guaranteed low rates up to

Apply now! Call 631-8000 or 1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll-free)

We find ways

or visit the nearest BDO branch or BDO On-site.

72 months to pay.

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS @ TUESDAY F

film fiesta unreels this week

PHILIPPINE DAILY IN TREE

Octobres 2 200 To provide a 200

IN THIS ISSUE

Metrobank design
winners bared /D5
Comprehensive book
on saga of La Naval /E1

HURSDAY FOOD @ FF

Pelicula/Pelikula, the biggest showcase of Spanish and Latin American films in Southeast Asia, opens Oct. 2 GEN. EDUARDO ERMITA
Exec Sec, Pres. Grena Mecapagal

DR. NILO ROSAS
Educator Former President
Paul Memanul University
Paul Memanul University

MEL VELARDE
CEO, Nextel

BERNADETTE SEMBRANO

Pel Normal University
VILMA SANTOS
Gov. Belanges. Actress
ROXANNE BARCELO

FR. GERRY ORBOS CHARLENE GONZALES
Priest. Columnist Beauty Queen, Activess

THEY ALL DID IT THROUGH THE RENOWNED TAPALLA WAY

Join The Ranks Of Our Famous Achievers
PRIVATE COACHING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
Wilma Cruz-Japalla
SPEECH · ETIQUETTE · WRITING

The Pioneer Communications Co.

GIF Providence Bidg. 55 Annapolis St.,
Greenhilts, San Juan City Tels. 723-4118 · 726-8768
Extension Classes: Ortigas & Sampaloc (call G'HILLS)

WWW.WCtacademe.com

Pelikula, a festival of Spanish and Latin American films organized by Instituto Cervantes de Manila, presents a selection of Spanish films this month.

Now on its sixth year, it will run Oct. 2-14 at Cinema 2 of Greenbelt 3.

Twenty-one fulllength features will showcase the best of Spanish cinema.

"With Pelicula, we bring this year an extraordinary selection of Spanish and Latin American movies," said Instituto Cervantes director José Ma. Rodriguez.

"From the latest films of contemporary directors, to old classics and short documentaries,

Pelicula turns into a must-see event in the cultural life of Manila."

The festival will begin with films from new directors. One is Daniel Sanchez Arévalo's opera prima, the highly successful "Azulo Oscuro, Casi Negro."

Other films that also screened are the latest from secondtime directors Alberto Rodriguez ("7 Viírgenes"); Benito Zambrano ("Habana Blue"); and Sánchez-Jorge Cabezudo ("La Noche de los Girasoles"); as well as the third of Eduard Córtes ("Otros Dias Vendrán").

There will also be the latest works from directors that tackle broad themes such as José Luis Cuerda, who will present his "La Educación de las Hadas," and Fernando Colomo's latest, "El Próximo Oriente."

The sixth edition of Pelikula will be graced by director Maria Ripoll, who will present the best of her works, from her first film "Lluvia en los Zapatos," to her most recent, "Tu Vida en 65," including "Utopia" or "Tortilla Soup."

Also part of the festival are films from two of Spain's more internationally renowned directors: "La Vida Secreta de las Palabaras" by Isabel Coixet, and "Semen, Una Historia de Amor" by Inés Paris.

### Classics

This sixth edition of the festival will open with the concert "Universo Chomón," in which

SPANISH/ C3

Available at:











"MET whitens my skin and makes it teen-soft, teen-smooth all over!" — Ruffa Gutierrez



### Introducing MET premium whitening soap from Japan

\$9.60 ... Bertal

You've stayed in the dark too long, waiting for the special soap that will finally fulfill your dream of having fair complexion.

Now you can step out of the shadow -- plus enjoy the silky smooth skin of youth -- with MET premium whitening soap from Japan.

MET is one-of-a-kind because it goes beyond whitening to offer total skin care.

It has a potent blend of Alpha Arbutin, an extract of the bearberry plant; and Glutathione, the "Master Antioxidant" -- two effective whitening agents that inhibit the skin's Tyrosinase activity to block the formation of melanin and bring about de-pigmentation.

What's more, MET provides natural skin moisturizers from palm and occonut oils, as well

as essential soybean extracts that regenerate the collagen in the skin to smoothen out fine lines and blemishes.

The result: skin that's fair, soft, smooth, and radiant with a youthful glow!

Use MET premium whitening soap morning and night daily, and see the amazing results.

WHITENS PLUS RESTORES YOUNG SKIN

For Inquiries, text REG (space) NAME (space) ADDRESS (space) AGE and send to 09175500MET Hotline: 0917500IMET

.

### LIFESTYLE

### REVIEWS

# What price love?

By Alice M. Sun-Cua Contributor

"La Educacion de las Hadas" (The Education of Fairies) Director: José Luis Cuerda 2007

HAT WOULD YOU do for love? The answer it seems, in this Cuerda offering, is "Everything. Everything!"

Nicolás (Ricardo Darín), a 40-year-old toy-maker who encounters the love of his life, Ingrid (Iréne Jacob), a recently-widowed beautiful woman, and her 8-year-old son Raúl (Victor Valdivía), on a flight from Alicante to Barcelona. They set up home in the lush woodlands of Nicolás' ancestral house in Catalán where Ingrid, an ornithologist, builds her own glass house for her scientific studies.

Raúl is a boy whose heart and head is filled with enchantment, needing a father after his biological one, a decorated aviator hero, died in Iraq. Every evening, Nicolás fills Raúl with fairy stories to put him to sleep, even showing the boy his secret hideaway, a wooden barn deep in the leafy forest, with enchanted places to hide old photos and memories.

One day, however, Ingrid suddenly acts very strangely,

refuses to sleep with Nicolás, and tells him they have to part. Nicolás despairs. Where did he fail? Is there another man? Every male visitor to the house

now becomes suspect. At this point he meets Sezar (Bebe), a young Algerian woman of Iraqi descent who is preparing to finish her doctoral studies at the Sorbonne. She works at the checkout counter of a supermarket, and is sexually harassed by the manager, and at the same time abandoned by her boyfriend who is in prison after a drug bust.

Sezar is now transformed into a most unlikely character of a fairy in the forest for Raul to discover, as the boy clothes her in his magic imaginings.

Meanwhile, Nicolás struggles with his torment, but ready to give up Ingrid, if this will make her happy.

The encounter between Ingrid and Sezar finally makes us understand why things turn out the way they do; why deci-

sions, sometimes as startling and painful as the one Ingrid takes, must be made; and how, faced with all these, love continues to flourish, and remains as unchangingly beautiful and fresh as the forest surrounding their home.

The strength of the film comes from the rich but fine intertwining stories of the characters' lives, a tightly paced unfolding of scenes without sacrificing the little details that make the movie unique and memorable: the toy owl Nicolás made, hanging in Ingrid's glass house; his dialogue with Luisa (Gloría Roig), the woman who has been with his family for three generations and whom he professed

his love for Ingrid; the quiet

bonding between Nicolás, the "natural father," and the boy Raúl; and the despondence of Ingrid in front of the mirror as the bitter truth faced her.

The contrast of the clear glass house where Ingrid works at daytime and the dark night when Nicolás has to sleep away from her; the openness of their relationship at the beginning, and its rigidity when the shadows start to overwhelm, builds up a tension that reaches its culmination when Sezar enters the scene in a manner so ingenuous there is no difficulty in suspending disbelief.

Those who love the countryside will revel in the visually stunning terrain, a perfect backdrop to this movie based on the novel with the same title by Van Cauwelaert.

Whether this story is told from the point of view of Nicolás, or Ingrid, or Sezar, or even Raúl, they will agree on the theme: Love is all. And that if one's love is true, everything can be sacrificed for the beloved.

Alice M. Sun-Cua, a poet and a physician. Her books include "Riding Towards the Sunrise & Other Travel Essays" (Anvil, 2000) and "Charted Prophesies and Other Poems" (DLSU Press,



### Love, death and tango

By Dinah Roma Contributor

> "Ciudad en Celo" (City in Heat) Director: Hernan Gaffet 2006

SERGIO HEN (Daniel Kuzniecka) comes home earlier than usual and finds his wife in bed with his younger brother in "Ciudad en Celo," I prepare myself for another run-of-the-mill love triangle.

But when Sergio's mother suddenly calls right in the middle of the family tussle to ask if he had a row with his brother who has been acting strange lately, I knew that the story promises to be a bit more complicated and funny.

"Ciudad en Celo" (2006) brings us to Buenos Aires, the tango capital of the world, where one finds love and beautiful women almost on every corner of the street. Director Hernan Gaffet's debut work scales down this passionate city to a small, unassuming cafe called Garllington, where a group of near middle-aged friends gathers. Sergio, Marcos (Adrian Navarro) and Valeria (Dolores Sola) are brought together once more after Sebastian (Juan Minujin), the urbanite in the group, calls to invite them to a reunion in and easy as we wish it to be. their old hangout.

On the night they promised to meet, Sebastian commits suicide.

As the three friends grieve, old heartaches and disappointments are revealed and their friendship affirmed. In confronting their individual losses, Valeria, a powerful tango vocalist, finally comes to accept her unchanging love for Sergio. On the other

hand, Marco, though a rival for Valeria's affection, decides instead to shake Sergio to action. Finally freed of his desire, Marco now pursues a younger interest whom he met earlier in a cemetery. Even the cafe's owner, the cool and debonair, Duke (Claudio Rissi), does not remain bereft of love. He becomes the chivalrous knight to a melancholic lady.

Through these affairs, everyone finds the comfort and warmth that lift the banality of everyday life to a more exciting and thus bearable height. Not even the mad woman Juana (Julia Calvo) that Sergio befriends in the cafe and whose spontaneity had once charmed a flower vendor to his death is without her great yet tragic love story.

The controlled and even performance of the actors renders the love stories credible. Nothing goes out of hand. Not even the ritual of the three friends to bid their friend Sebastian farewell by throwing his ashes into a lake is spared a comic touch when the ducklings thought they were being fed breadcrumbs.

Indeed, this is not a young person's love story. Yet, all the more, each character is made more brave, humorous and appreciative of love, which as we age may no longer be as simple

The film's enchanting soundtrack lends rhythm to the narrative. The tango music, with its sultry crescendos and sad descent, is after all what love is all about. No one escapes it. No one has the power to resist it. The film's ending says it all-heed the music and love will just be a dance away.

Dinah Roma is a poet and teacher:

By Vicente Garcia Groyon Contributor

"Derecho de Familia (Family Law)" Director: Daniel Burman 2006

ERECHO DE FAMILIA" immediately establishes a languid, deliberate pace and maintains it for the rest of the movie. Fans of Hollywood storytelling style may be confounded by the meandering rhythms of this gem of a film from Argentina, but the patient will be rewarded.

Ariel Perelman (Daniel Hendler) teaches law at university and works as a civil servant, quietly resisting becoming his father (Arturo Goetz, in a warm, restrained performance), who is a popular and successful defense attorney. The tension between destiny and Ariel's passive-aggressive approach to decision-making provides the forward momentum of the story.

Soon after the movie begins, Ariel woos Sandra, one of his more fetching students (Julieta Diaz), with some professional help from his father, in a charming subplot involving Pilates, copyright law, and tissue paper. They marry and soon have an adorable toddler, Gaston (Eloy Burman, a scene-stealer and the director's child), whose care and upbringing Ariel seems ambivalent about, although it's clear he adores his son.

Director-screenwriter Daniel Burman tells the story with the logic and compassion of Francois Truffaut, an acknowledged influence. Derecho recalls the later Antoine Doinel movies, with their quiet, gently humorous vignettes and loose plots held together by the magnetic presence of the protagonist. Daniel Hendler sets the tone here with his befuddled, almost willfully vacant face and deadpan line readings.



the roles that young men must play as they mature and take their place in society. Ariel is unable to reconcile his sense of self with these roles, and continues to behave like a confused adolescent even after he becomes a husband and father. He is unable to deal with his jealousy over his wife's hunkier Pilates students, and unwilling to help raise Gaston. When an office renovation gives him a month-long vacation, he puts off telling his wife, preferring to "play hooky" for no reason.

Ariel is a man who has resisted growing up, dreading the inevitable moment when he will see his father staring back at him from a mirror. The law is his profession, vet he carefully draws a line between the law (his father's practice) and justice (his vocation). Many of his lectures focus on

On one level, Derecho de Familia is about the gray areas in the interpretation of the law, alluding to his own refusal to recognize the blacks and whites life presents us

Ultimately, Derecho is about the complexity of fatherhood and how it's inextricably tied up with son-hood. The film completes a series exploring this topic ("Esperando al Mesías" in 2000 and "El Abrazo Partido" in 2004, all starring Hendler as a character named Ariel). In this conclusion, Burman suggests that the fruit can never fall far from the tree, but finds comfort and salvation in this proposition.

Vicente García Groyon is a novelist who teaches Film and Literature at De La Salle University. His short stories are collected in the book, "On Cursed Ground and Other Stories" (UP Press, 2004).



By Shirley O. Lua Contributor

"Tu Vida en 65' (Your Life at 65)" Director: Maria Ripoll 2006

NE SUNDAY, AS ANY regular Sunday would be to young men in the summer of Barcelona, three friends meet, their day already mapped out: lunch, frolic in the beach, and watch soccer. Chancing upon the obituaries, they note the death of a schoolmate. On a spur of the moment, they grace the funeral, realizing soon after that the deceased is someone they do not know. This sets off a string of encounters, nothing like their usual Sunday lark.

Such is the engaging premise of the film "Tu Vida en 65" (Spain, 2006; English title: "Your Life at 65"") directed by María Ripoll. The film begins with an arresting scene: Dani Martí, one of the three amigos, sits before a washing machine, gazing at it with pleasure. He finds serenity in watching his shirts spinning and swirling in the soapy water. This scene forebodes the singularity of the succeeding incidents, building up to a disquieting ending.

Just in case the viewer expects this to be one of those surrealist or postmodern ventures, s/he is due for a chance disappointment. The film turns out to be ingeniously simple, in terms of plot, but mind-blowing complex,

in terms of the issues it raises.

Scripted by Albert Espinosa based on his play, the story presents dichotomies of the quotidian such as: the normal vs. the strange, premeditated vs. coincidental, mischance vs. opportunity. It questions the socially constructed notion of death, and how people attempt to cope with it. In real life, death is often treated as something unexpected, an unwelcome intrusion into the mundanity of the everyday. Ironically, normal is when you order paella and it takes forever to arrive, while death, the coincidental, happens in a wink of an eye. Thus, after a funeral, one goes shopping in the mall to recapture the sense of normality. But as one character remarks, "everyone will die," recognizing the most obvious common event of human history.

And is falling in love an aber-

The three amigos, seeing the day spiraling out of their control, endeavor to regain the typicality of a Sunday, wherein, according to one of them, "we feel confident."

The film's winning moments lie in the juxtaposition of the perceived normal and the unusual, in the shifting from the expected to the unexpected. This incongruity lends humorous and ironic twists to the unhurried pacing of action.

The dialogue is simply brilliant. During the wake, one

Pelicula Pelikula. 6th Spanish Film Festival

(Detallacer 2 to 114, 2007)

(Gunembellt 3, Cincerca 2 (escapation ansenage on 9 Oct, what will be belit in Cinera 1)

Date/III inte	) prot	4:30 pm	7:50 pm	9:30 pm	12:00
2 Tues		Invisibles	Tu vida en 65°	Withpia	
Med	,	Slummetrs jer d'fluegr	Azıd ascuro cəsi negro	Committee of the Commit	
( Thu		7 wingenes	La educación de las hadas	Semen, una hª de amor	l
i Feli		Viva Cuba	Eropia	El próximo Oriente	Falmer Elver
i Sav	Historia de una nacife da San Luny	Tu vida en 65°	Ciudad an cale	Azul oscuro casi negro	Othes dies ventain
Eam:	the profunities	(Denedho dieffamilia	E. Lara .	Semen, una hª de amor	
E WEST		La nucle de lin gizzotes	Los últimos de filipinas	iciudad en cala	
True	(Gereatingslin (Ginema 以)	Viva Cuba	Hallan dele	Salvador	
o west		La educación de las hadas	Diummetos jaar et Huego	El próximo Oriente	
of Thu		7 winganes	Wenedho de Kamilia	Otros d'iles vendrán	
1.2 Am		foliadad ani cello	Viva Cuba	La northe de lies glemates	Azul oscuro casi negro
(3 ⊈at	the positionalities	E) oura	El próximo Oriente	Company Services	Tu vida en 667
2.4.5am	(Denedio de fantlis	Semen, una ha de amor	AudienperShpige	Salvodor	

IFOR Ifuntion uniformation please flogo on to www.manita.cervantes.es

# Eavesdropping on silences

By Marjorie Evasco Contributor

"La Vida Secreta de las Pal-;abras"

Director: Isabel Coixet 2005

HAT HAPPENS WHEN life throws your way an unexpected, even an unwished-for bonanza, like a forced monthlong vacation with pay, away from the tediousness of work? Most of us would readi-- ly pack up and leave for some fantasy island, and for once, go on an adventure or give in to the luxury of just letting be.

But our hero Hanna Amiran (Sarah Polley) is not like most of us, even if on the surface she seems like everyone else in the drab factory uniform. A solitary, she lives in a world of no-sound,

enclosed in a silence so deep, words hardly spill out of her even in the presence of others.

However, she does live with words in her mind, and through the film's way of dramatizing internal speech, we eavesdrop on her secret life and unravel the mystery of who she is and why she is trying to forget her past.

This world that we overhear holds our attention, and when she decides on the spur of a moment to chuck off her vacation for a chance opportunity to work as a nurse to an oil-rig worker, Joseph Bryce (Tim Robbins), who had been fractured, badly burned and temporarily blinded in a fire, we sense her would irrevocably choice

She is immediately whisked off to this oil rig, an artificial "is-

land" in some cold spot in the vast ocean, and here she finds herself with the all-male crew, men who also have chosen to live in isolation or in minimal contact with others; men who wanted to be left alone.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER-

Like her, they have their secret lives and fears, their longings protected by aloneness and silence. There's Dmitri, in charge of the oil rig, who says he needs the ocean; on dry land he gets dizzy. There's Simon, the cook, who tends to his herbs and tries to cook gourmet dishes to ward off boredom.

Another is Martin, the oceanographer who measures the impact of waves and the effect of oil-drilling operations on mussels. Scott and Liam are away from their families and seek love from each other. Abing irony.

dul dances away his blues. And, of course, there's Lisa the goose that honks at everyone.

Hanna's silence begins to break only when she unwittingly eavesdrops on her burn patient's secret life. And as Joseph insists on talking with her through his temporary blindness and burns, he builds with words an ineffable link with her

structed out of bits of truth and lies; loves hoped for and forever lost; dreams and stories told with refreshing humor or sting-

His words are also his way of sensing who she is, of bypassing the tyranny of the eye to give full sway to the sensitive and listening ear.

How she finally meets him on this bridge of words, when her chosen and characteristic reticence gives way to an ultimate telling of a terrifying story, is the film's central revelation of unnamable scars wrought by almost unimaginable human cruelties in the wars of the world.

Hanna's scars go all the way to Dubrovnik and the war in the and reveal her story silences American Film in 2007.

inner life, a fragile bridge con- Joseph into an understanding of an individual person's pain far gone too deep.

The Spanish say that to make something beautiful out of the terrible is to put the finger into the wound. Poner el dedo en la

This is where it is possible to eavesdrop on the secret life of an Other and understand what it takes to love. Director Isabel Coixet invites us to the heart of this art; one that does not configure easy solutions to the variable equations of pain and endurance.

"La Vida Secreta de las Palabras" won major awards for the cinema: Goya Best Director, Best Film and Best Screenplay prizes in 2006; Lina Mangiacapre Award in the Venice Film Balkans. Her decision to trust Festival; Silver Ariel Best Latin



### Any normal

From page C2

character shows appreciation for the creative design of the memoriam card, calling it "funerary chic." However, the award for the best line goes to the reply given to the question "How is he (the deceased)?" The reply: "He looks good."

In its simplicity, the film is a refreshing departure from the usual melodrama or wacky comedy. Hand-held moving shots project the film's look of the commonplace, alternating with occasional MTV-like sequences that underscore emotional tension or create turns in

Javier Pereira plays Dani Martí with wideeyed candor and sensitivity. He is supported by an exceptional cast which includes Marc Rodríguez (Francisco) and Oriol Vila (Ignacio). Ripoll received a nomination for Best Director and Espinosa won for Best Screenplay in the Barcelona Film Award.

'Tu Vida en 65" will be screened on Oct. 2, 6, and 13 at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. Ripoll will grace the Oct. 2 screening to introduce her film.

Shirley O. Lua teaches at De La Salle University in Manila and specializes in Philippine literature, diaspora studies, and film and lit-



INSTITUTO Cervantes de Manila director José Ma. Rodriguez

musician Jordi Sabatés will play an adaptation, with the piano, of accompaniment pieces for 15 of the films, expanding and renewing his poetic universe.

Segundo Chomón, the great pioneer of global cinema, created an infinite number of short-film animations and features under the studio of George Méliès and his own production house. His work opened doors for fictional cinema.

As part of historic film retrieval, "Los Ultimos de Filipinas," a classic war film by Antonio Román in 1945, will also be shown. It tells of the heroic feat of the Spanish soldiers in the remote detachment of Baler, who resisted for one year after Spain lost control over the Philippines.

### Rebirth of Spanish

The last edition of the festival was a tremendous hit among Manila moviegoers with over 14,000 people flocking to see the films. This success is yet another indication that the interest in Spanish language and culture has been on the rise the last few years.

Instituto Cervantes has seen a great increase in Spanish-language enrollment and enjoys large and receptive audiences in the cultural events it organizes. There has been a popular observation the Philippines is witnessing a rebirth of Spanish language and culture.

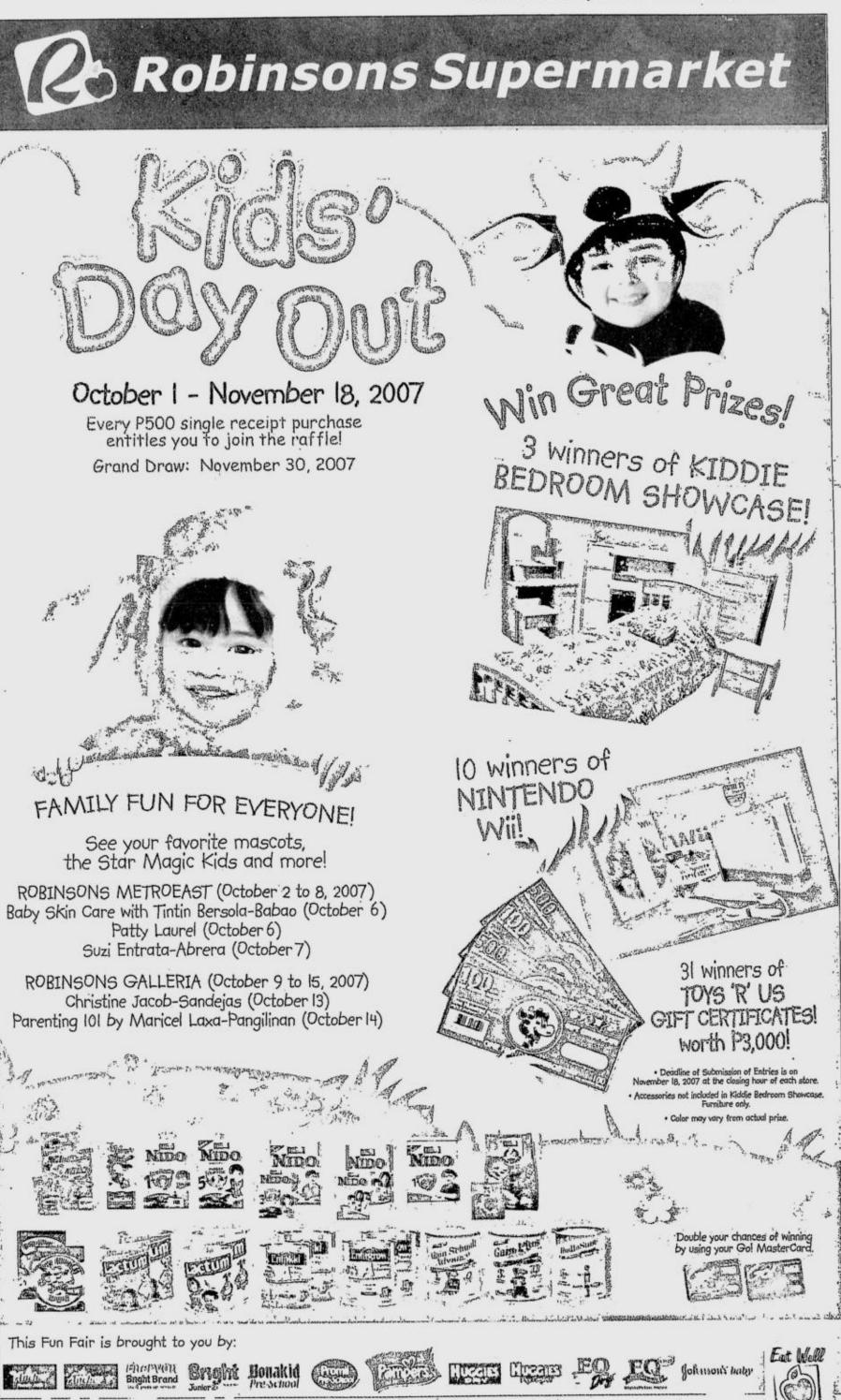
Rodriguez, a journalist known for having covered Philippine affairs for 25 years now, said he hoped that through Pelicula/Pelikula the historic cultural links between the Philippines and the Spanish global community would be deepened.

"My dream is for Instituto Cervantes to represent a way of life to every Filipino," he said, "a place for friendship and culture, a place for personal growth, and a place where there is room for everyone."

See flyers for details

ALL ROBINSONS MALLS

Araneta Square, Caloocan City Banilad Town Center, Celbu Berkeley Square, Commonwealth Blue Wave Mall, Marikina City



www.robinsons-supermarket.com.ph

Circle C Center, Congressional Good Earth Plaza, Avenida

Nagaland, EMall, Naga City Nepo Mall, Dagupan Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga

Malabon Citisquare Metropolis Star Alabang Susano Complex, Novaliches Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna Tutuban Center

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4578 Series of 2007

Mag-text nang mag-text para manalo nang manalo sa

ZELEWEM®

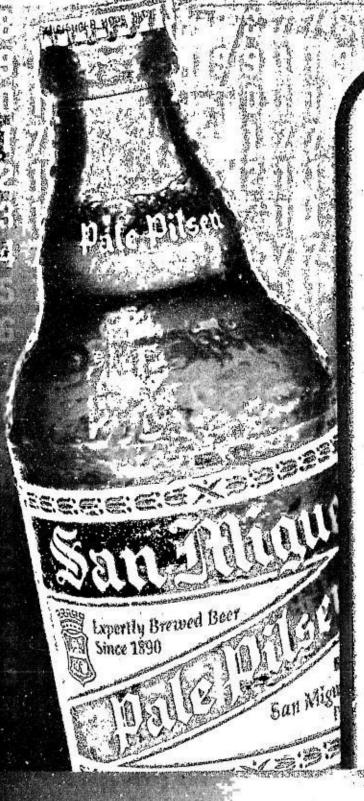
San Itliquel BEER

DE LUS EN Same-same

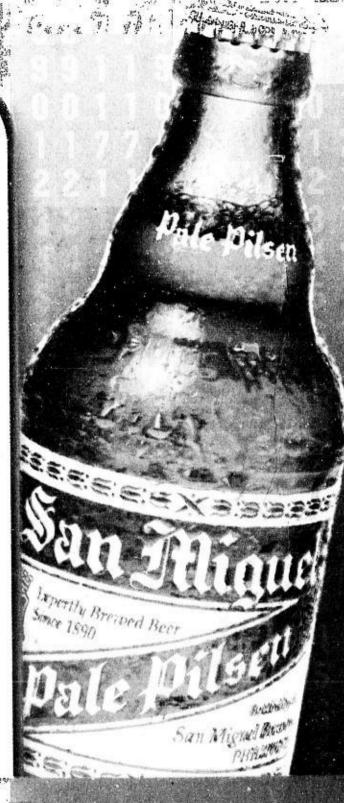
DEJJES ES

PROME

Buy any of the participating San Miguel Beer product; text to retailed, collect points and win big prizes in text to recipe, collect points and win big prizes in the lewest purchase we take the collect of the collect







### It's FREE IO (BEISEA)

See flyers for details.

For more information, Visit www./elevencouble (com)

Promo is open to adults to years allerant and additionally

Promo runs from September 25 ip to @dober 3 \$2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4572 Series of 2007

DRINK MODERATELY



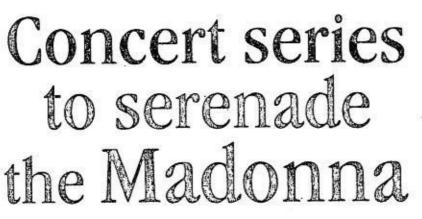
Text ETEL(space)PDI(space)Name, Landling Number & Desired Position Sand to, 2327 (Globe Subscribers) 09178902327 (Non-Globe Subscribers)

Basil Valdez, Jamie Rivera, José Mari Chan, Raul Sunico and other musicians team up

for 'Serenata,' the

Novena concert series

for La Naval de Manila









**JOSE MARI CHAN JAMIE Rivera** 

By Dexter R. Matilla Contributor

CLASSICAL planist and UST

Conservatory of Music dean Raul Sunico

OR THIS YEAR'S → Novena Masses for Our Lady of the Rosary, La Naval de Manila, a series of concerts will be held in connection with the centennial of the canonical coronation of the image.

Moreover, the recording of "Salamat, Maria," a special song composed for the centennial by top pop-mu-sic composer Vehnee Saturno and sung by Basil Valdez, will be launched.

Perhaps no other victory in the history of the Filipino faith could be bigger than



**BASIL Valdez** 

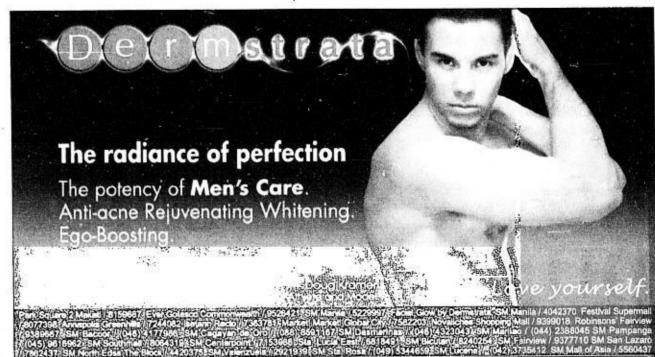
that of La Naval. The triumph of two Filipino-Spanish merchant galleons-the Encarnacion and Rosario-over the Dutch's 18 warships in 1646 was a feat that seemed to exceed

that of King Leonidas' 300 against Xerxes' Persian army.

The La Naval story tells of how the Dutch were planning to invade the Philippines, which had no naval force to withstand the prob-

On paper, it seemed like a lost cause, something Gen. Lorenzo de Orella y Ugalde realized. As highly skilled as he was, he knew a victory would be nothing short of a miracle.

Surrendering himself to God, he made a vow to Our Lady of the Rosary of Sto. Domingo Church in Intramuros that, if they were to overcome the odds, he and his "army" would walk barefoot toward the church.





Test drive today at your nearest Chevrolet dualer: MAKATI 894-1976, 867-8183 to 87 • QUEZON AVENUE 374-1250 TO 59 • SHAW 535-4944, 533-6349, 533-8375, 533-1263 PASIG 672-1612 10\_14, 672-1486 • ALABANG 771-1206 to 09 • NORTH EDSA 374-9992 to 97, 374-9963 • MANILA 564-0129 • CEBU 1032) 234-0426 to 29 • PAMPANGA (045) 963-3333, (045) 860-2000 • DAVAO (082) 300-7777, (082) 235-3811 • DAGUPAN (075) 523-7777, (075) 523-1835, (075) 515-5577 • ILOILO (033) 329-2888, (033) 329-2222

BACOLOD (034) 708-2489 Gift Cartificate can be used to pay for LTG Registration. Car Insurance, Chattel. Mortgage or as discount on car











with Stamina Plus Batteries **Text Raffle Promo!** 

Get a chance to WIN a 20" SONY BRAVIA and other exciting Sony prizes monthly!

To enter your raffle entry code, text SONYBATTERY<space><unique code>and send to 2366

SONYBATTERY REG<Name/Age/Gender/Address>and send to 2366

### IFESTYLE



RACHEL Alejandro in "Avenue Q"



CAST of Atlantis Productions' "Avenue Q," directed by Bobby Garcia and Chari Arespacochaga: Alejandro, Rycharde Everly, Joel Trinidad, Felix Rivera, Aiza Seguerra, Teenee Chan and Frenchie Dy

Itchy puppets, greedy puppeteers

Three well-made musicals, two of them coming back for much-deserved reruns, offered good reasons for going to the theater recently

By Gibbs Cadiz

HERE WAS time, before the onslaught of the TV-manufactured "Chamwhen singer Rachel Alejandro's beautifully burnished alto dominated pop radio with hits like "Nakapag-

tataka" and "Paalam Na." These days, the dominant sound of the airwaves is much higher in both decibel and pitch—the aural fingerprint of a crop of younger singers who've been taught that belting, curlicue and melisma, no matter how undisciplined or superfluous to their talent, are the turbo trains to popular acclaim.

Singing as a blood sport can howl non-belters like Alejandro out of the fickle spotlight, as it has of late.

But there is one venue where Alejandro should feel most welcome any time: the stage. Her few forays into musical theater so far ("Alikabok," "Larawan," "Rent") suggest that her gifts acquire greater luster when used in service to a musical character, as opposed to a conventional 32bar pop ditty.

Her recent turn as Kate Monster and Lucy the Slut in Atlantis Productions' "Avenue Q," directed by Bobby Garcia and Chari Arespacochaga, supports this thought.

In this winsome staging of the 2004 Tony winner for Best Musical, which closed a weekend ago at the RCBC Theater but will be

back in the same venue on December 14-23, Alejandro delivered a performance of remarkable control and versatility. Her pipes spun glittering sass one moment (in "Special"), precise heartbreak the next (in "There's a Fine, Fine Line").

Alejandro's assured presence in this genial, tuneful, sharply mischievous musical-featuring puppets that cussed and boinked each other, for starters-was all of a piece with her co-stars' joyously entertaining work.

### Happy surprise

There's Felix Rivera, showing himself off as a newly minted leading man with his good looks, limber frame and strong, expressive voice (already evident when he strutted as an alternate Chuck Cranston in Stages' "Footloose" in 2005). If he keeps at it, Rivera should be in the big leagues by tomorrow.

Joel Trinidad juggled his multiple ventriloquist duties expertly, and was especially funny as Trekkie Monster. Aiza Seguerra, though you could quibble with her unsteady attempt at a black accent, was perfectly cast as Gary Coleman, if only for the resonant punch she brought to the line, "Try being a has-been at 15 years old!" And in small parts, Rycharde Everly and Teenee Chan gave deft support.

It would be an oversight not to devote a paragraph or two to Frenchie Dy, who was a happy surprise as Christmas Eve. The erstwhile "Star in a Million" champion aced her musical theater debut with much charm and

song. Can she dance? How about "Hairspray" for her next time? ("Avenue Q" returns Dec. 14-23 at the RCBC Theater. Call 8927078 or e-mail atlantis.productions@gmail.com)

### Glossy 'sarsuwela'

Puppets and puppeteers were also on ample display in "Pilip-inas Circa 1907," Tanghalang Pilipino's glossy, colorful restaging of Nicanor Tiongson's modern sarsuwela on the state of the nation a full century ago.

in the ensemble next to Alejan-

She represents hope—the bona fide product of gladiatorial

vocal combat on TV transcend-

ing her birit beginnings to be-

come an effective storyteller in

Unlike "Avenue Q's" denizens, the puppets here weren't of the cute, furry kind. Try grasping, brutal, sycophantic instead. Puppet and puppet-master took the form of local toadies and their American colonialist overlords who worked in tandem to rip the land of its resources, take over homegrown industries and harass anyone with pronounced nationalist sentiments.

Ripping a page off Severino Reyes' landmark sarsuwela "Walang Sugat," "Pilipinas Circa 1907," briskly directed by Dennis Marasigan, offered no pretensions to an unbiased view of

It had a knotty, playful love story-make that two love stories-at its center, but Tiongson's libretto thumbed the scales as a larger, full-throated screed against Western imperialism and its ballast, capitalist greed. It wasn't for nothing that in this sarsuwela, the pivotal Filipino tobacco company lusted over by the Americans was named Germinal-after the title of Emile Zola's novel on the oppressed working classes of the Industrial Revolution.

### Zippy and agile

The revelation, then, of "Pilipinas Circa 1907," staged without the aid of lapel microphones at the CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, was how light, zippy and musically agile it felt despite its ponderous themes.

The music-by José Estella, Lutgardo Labad, Louie Pascasio, Lucien Letaba and Chino Toledo, with snatches from Nicanor Abelardo, Scott Joplin and Barry Fagan-was by a virtual committee that promised only a muddled mess. But under Chino Toledo's musical ministrations, what came out was a robust score brimming with martial music, rich melodies and lofty

Sung, it should be added, by some of the most attractive if largely unheralded voices theater company had been able to gather lately.

Miguel Castro, Ana Feleo (thrilling in her aria, "Ang Maya"), Lani Ligot, Jing Reyna, Mia Bolanos and Nazer Salcedo paced the rest of the cast with the refinement and transparency of

confidence, plus the best voice their singing. The large ensemble, garbed in costumes by Danilo Franco, sounded warm and vigorous, if not always tightknit-a forgivable kink when weighed against the lucidity and energy of the production.

### Inquisitive kids

In the musical "Children's Letters to God," God, whomever or however we conceive Him to be, is the grand puppet-master jerking the cosmic strings behind everything that happens around us. Or is he?

That ambiguity, both tantalizing and exasperating, is not what the story is about, but it is a subtext worth acknowledging. For while five inquisitive children send God a fusillade of letters with amusing yet thoughtprovoking questions ("Dear God, are you really invisible or is that just a trick?") or pithy observations ("Dear God, I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions"), the All-Knowing One remains silent, aloof, unresponsive.

In this Off-Broadway musical (music by David Evans, lyrics by Douglas J. Cohen) that Actor's Actors Inc.'s Bart Guingona (assisted by Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo) staged for one weekend last month and will bring back for two more weekends this October, the children are left on their own to explore, discover, learn from and live out the answers to their questions.

No voice from the heavens, no apparitions, no burning bush. Which, in the end, may constitute God's All-Purpose Answer to human confusion: I gave you

everything you need, kiddo-free will, a mind and a heart. Use them, and good luck.

In "Children's Letters to God," the kids do. They discover their own capacity to overcome fear, reach out to others, accept new and strange realities (their parents' divorce, for instance, or the death of a pet), ride out the bumps of their fragile young lives.

### Care and poise

And as performed by a thoroughly captivating cast that, on the afternoon we watched, included Julia Abueva, Aria Clemente, Vince Ching, Miguel Lorenzo Sison and Nacho Tambunting (there were two other sets of young actors alternating in the roles), the silly-serious world-view offered by this show became an enormously touching, transporting experience.

A musical about "God" rinsed of the contemporary default positions of irony, attitude and quotation marks can carry its own self-destructive gene: How far before it capsizes into mush?

Impressively, "Children's Let-ters to God" held on to great poise and the steadiest of care. Guingona and Lauchengco-Yulo's sterling work with their young actors birthed a musical of pure, uncomplicated sentiment, all of it honestly earned. It must be seen to be believed.

("Children's Letters to God" returns Oct. 6 and Oct. 13 at the Insular Life Auditorium, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang; then on Oct. 20-21 at the RCBC Theater, Makati City. Call 0920-9211231 or 8919999.)

E-mail the author gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph, www.gibbscadiz.com



MIGUEL Castro, Lani Ligot, Arnold Reyes and Ana Feleo in Tanghalang Pilipino's "Pilipinas Circa 1907," directed by Dennis Marasigan

## A modern 'Love's Labour's Lost' from Repertory Philippines

"LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST" IS one of Shakespeare's earlier works and in many ways was his prototype for the later, more arresting comedies.

What primarily attracted director Bart Guingona to the play was its innocence and playfulness. That, and some of the most beautiful lines to come out of the Shakespearean canon: "a lover's eyes will gaze an eagle blind, a lover's ear will hear the lowest sound..." Or, "From women's eyes this doctrine I derive; They are the books, the arts, the academes that show, contain and nourish all the world."

Guingona was certain when he first played the male lead of "Love's Labour's Lost" many years ago that the play would fly with a modern audience. He kept telling himself that this play should and would be appreciated by today's audiences if they saw themselves in it. That to him is the hallmark of a classic text-the ability to survive any contemporary rendition through time.



NICCOLO Manahan, Epy Quizon and Gabs Santos

Apart from being confined to a world that seemed to be impervious to the goings-on of the outside world, the students in "Love's Labour's Lost" have something in common with the Catholic co-ed school Guingona grew up in. They live their lives as if courtship and flirtation were the essence of existence. They are forced to grow up when they get caught up in events be- 8919999.

With this "Love's Labour's Lost," Guingona remembers his own coming-of-age in the '80s and the political events of the time that forced maturity on him and his generation.

This Repertory Philippines production of "Love's Labour's Lost" stars Niccolo Manahan, Epy Quizon, Hans Eckstein, Gabs Santos, Micah Muñoz, Jenny Jamora, Crisel Consunji, Caisa Borromeo and Cris Villonco portraying the student lovers of Shakespeare's most flamboyant and intellectual play.

Set in the 1980s in Manila's University Belt right before the Edsa Revolution, the days of "Bagets," Spandau Ballet, women with big hair, raccoon eyes, and "what-were-youthinking" fashion sense, this is Shakespeare with a twist of contemporary Filipino nostal-

"Love's Labour's Lost" is showing Oct. 5-6, 8 p.m., and Oct. 7, 3:30 p.m. Call 8870710 or Ticketworld at



TIPPY Dos Santos, Marek Sison, Jaime Cabilig, Aria Clemente and Ruiz Sison in Actor's Actors Inc.'s "Children's Letters to God," directed by Bart Guingona

# **LIFESTYLE**



TIPLES de Sto. Domingo

SALAMAT, MARIA'

# Hymn of gratitude to Our Lady

Composer Vehnee Saturno, musical arranger Louie Ocampo, Basil Valdez and the Tiples de Santo Domingo combine their gifts for a rousing gift of melody to La Naval de Manila

By Louie R. Coronel, OP Contributor

THIS YEAR IS A HIGH POINT for the La Naval de Manila tradition as the Church and nation celebrate the centennial of her much ado. canonical coronation.

image of La Naval has been acclaimed by the faithful since 1593 and served as a beacon of faith and hope for the Filipinos through the centuries.

for us; and whenever we receive thanks. Effusive words and gestures seem not enough to express our gratitude for her, so we find another expression that we can offer: the gift of music.

The idea of an official theme for the centennial crystallized through Elaine Villar, who has not only been in the music industry for some time but is also a dedicated Marian devotee. She called Rev. Jeffrey Aytona, OP, to raise the possibility of a song for La Naval.

Reverend Jeff presented the proposal to Fr. Jojo Dagohoy, OP, chair of the La Naval Centennial Committee, who had a poem dedicated to La Naval by Jovito Cariño, a poet and former Dominican brother.

When Villar received the poem, she promptly contacted her friend, the composer Vehnee Saturno. After a game of basketball, Saturno went to his music · room and, while in front of an image of La Naval (a gift by Villar), he began composing the theme music.

Talent coupled with inspiration provoked the musical prowess of a Marian devotee. In an hour, he was finished with his newest musical masterpiece! When Villar listened to it, she was moved and felt the song entering the deep recesses of her heart.

Reverend Jeff was astonished that in 24 hours the song was ready for approval. He asked

the Dominican community to listen to the song. The critical acoustic acuity of the Dominican fathers and brothers was satisfied and the song was approved unanimously without

**VEHNEE Saturno** 

Villar immediately called The centuries-old venerated Louie Ocampo, whom she considered family. Ocampo, who came from a religious family, as did a musical arrangement of the composition.

Villar asked the opinion of Fr. Indeed, La Naval is God's gift Boyd Sulpico, OP, who has a keen sense for music, about the her blessing, we cannot but give song. Upon listening, Fr. Boyd texted her, saying: "Tears were welling in my eyes."

Villar was finally convinced: "This is it!"

But who can perform such masterpiece for La Naval with integrity? There was only one person in mind-Basil Valdez.

As a balladeer famed for inspirational hits such as "Hindi Kita Malilimutan" and "Lead me Lord," he was unanimously chosen to sing the official theme song of the centennial.

Basil's manager, Wyngard Tracy, was very supportive of the project, or, should we say, "gift," and agreed for Basil to perform and record it without any hesitation, even if the singer had already agreed to sing for free in the "Serenata" on Oct. 5.

October 4, coronation day of La Naval, is the formal launching of the official theme song of the Centennial of the Canonical Coronation of La Naval. The 1907 papal coronation will be relived by Church and civil dignitaries and the Catholic faithful that day, at 4 p.m.

Valdez will perform "our gift" to the Blessed Mother with the Tiples de Sto. Domingo and the UST Symphony Orchestra.

The theme is more than just a song. It is a gift of our self to the Blessed Virgin Mary: the talent, the skill, the devotion, the love-all expressed through

### Schedule of La Naval festivities

Sto. Domingo Church, QC

Sept. 29-Oct. 31: La Naval Memorabilia Exhibit at the Museo de

Oct. 4 (4 p.m.): Enthronement and Reenactment Ceremony

Oct. 7: Launching of La Naval coffee-table book

Oct. 5-13 (4 p.m.): Serenata/Novena days

Oct. 5: Basil Valdez

Oct. 6: Las Piñas Boys Choir

Oct. 7: Hangad Jesuit Music Ministry

Oct. 8: Dr. Raul Sunico, professor Eugene de los Santos (tenor), professpr Thea Pérez (soprano), Ronan Ferrer and Nenen Espina Oct. 9: UP Concert Chorus

Oct. 10: Jose Marl Chan and Jamle Rivera

Oct. 11: Psaiterion of UST Central Semi with Miguel Aguila Oct. 12: Elim Community Music Ministry

Oct. 13: Hall Mary Children's Choir with Carol Lugtu Claro Dance

Art School for the Performing Arts

Oct. 14 (4 p.m.): Feast Day of La Naval de Manila Call 7126271 to 74 or e-mail at lanavaldemanila@yahoo.com.ph

### From page DI

Unbeknownst to the general, his second-in-command Admiral Sebastian Lopez made the same vow. Replicas of the Blessed Mother's image were also placed in both galleons and the Rosary was continuously recited.

Thus, from March to October 1646, the battles were fought. And won. From Aparri to Mariveles, Mindoro and Manila, the Filipino-Spanish armada won decisively, losing just 15 Filipino and Spanish soldiers.

On April 9, 1652, the Church's Ecclesiastical Council proclaimed that the victory was of divine and Marian intercession.

In October 1907, the apostolic delegate to the Philippines, Msgr. Ambrose Agius, OSB, fulfilling the papal order of Pope Pius X (later St. Pius X), canonically crowned La Naval de Manila.

A canonical coronation is an act of the Pope, duly expressed through the Papal Bull, wherein



the Roman Catholic Church recognizes an image of the Virgin Mary under a specific name being venerated in a certain locality.

The venerated image should be historically old, acclaimed, and in times of need serves as a beacon of faith and hope among the people. It also manifests recognition of the fervent devotion of the faithful.

### Centenary celebration

Filipinos celebrate this month the centennial of the canonical



HAIL Mary Children's Choir

coronation of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. On Oct. 5-13, during the Novena days, the Sto. Domingo Church will present a musical tribute in honor of the celebration every 4 p.m.

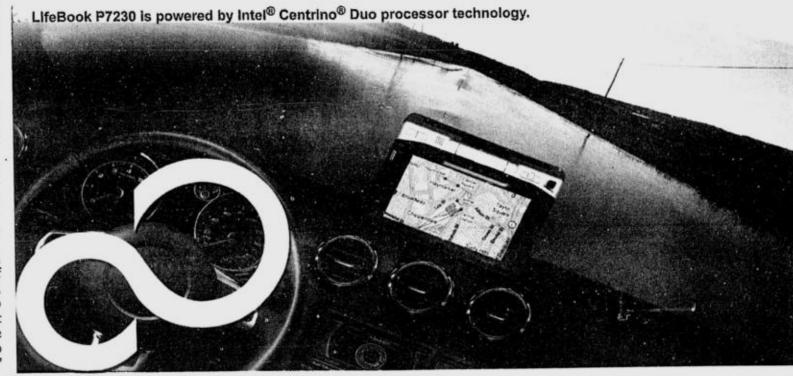
include Performers Basil Valdez; Las Piñas Boys Choir; Hangad Jesuit Music Ministry; Dean Raul Sunico of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music; tenor Eugene de los Santos, soprano Thea Perez, Ronan Ferrer and Nenen Espina; the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus; José Mari Chan, Jamie Rivera; the Psalterion of the UST Central Seminary; Miguel Aguila; Elim Community Music Ministry; and the Hail Mary the Queen Children's Choir with Carol Lugtu Claro Dance Art School for the Performing Arts.

"Salamat Maria," the official theme song for the celebration, will be performed by Valdez along with the Tiples and the Sto. Domingo Male Chorale. (See related article)

Rev. Jeff Aytona, OP, chair of the Serenata musical tribute, says the performers have offered their services for free. He encourages devotees to come early if they wish to have seats for the free con-

# THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE

Fujitsu recommends Windows Vista® Home Premlum.





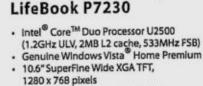
### LifeBook U1010

- Intel<sup>®</sup> Processor A110
- (800MHz, 512KB L2 cache, 400MHz FSB) Genuine Windows Vista® Home Premium
- 5.6" SuperFine WSVGA, 1024 x 600 pixels,
- Passive Touch Panel
- 1GB DDR2 400MHz · 40GB HDD
- 0.3 Mega Pixel Built-in Camera
   Bluetooth v2.0
- Up to 3.0hrs 1 (2-cell LI-lon 2600mAh)
- Approx. 0.61kg
- · Fingerprint Recognition Technology



### LifeBook P1610

- Intel<sup>®</sup> Core<sup>TM</sup> Solo U1400
- (1.2GHz ULV, 2MB L2 cache, 533MHz FSB) Genuine Windows Vista<sup>®</sup> Home Premium
- · 8.9" Transflective WXGA TFT,
- 1280 x 768 pixels
- 1 GB DDR2 533MHz
- · 80GB HDD
- Bluetooth® v2.0 + EDR (Enhance Data Rate)
- · Up to 4.0hrs (3-cell Li-Ion 2600mAh) Approx. 1kg (w/80GB HDD & 3-cell battery)
- · Fingerprint Recognition Technology



- Dual Layer DVD Super Multi Writer 1GB DDR2 667MHz
- · 80GB HDD
- 1.3 Mega Pixel Built-in Camera
   Bluetooth 22.0 + EDR (Enhance Data Rate)
- Up to 5.9hrs (6-cell Ll-lon, 10.8V, 5800mAh)
- Approx. 1.19kg (w/weight saver option) Fingerprint Recognition Technology

### LIFEBOOK Built-In Confidence

Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. (FPI) Visit http://ph.fujitsu.com/lifebook/ for more information on the complete LifeBook product range, features and benefits, specifications and suggested retail prices. Hotline: (63-2) 894-8557

vice Houline. (63-2) 641-6466	Sules Flotilile. (03-2) 004-00			* P4
Authorized Dealers  Complink  Megarnali 631990  SM North 920914  Parksquare1 893146  Mali of Asta 55607  Galleria 632989  Trinoma 901556  Baccor (046) 4	SM North Parksquare1 Mall of Asia Megamali	8019908 6319901 9209141 8931489 5560722 6319901 9209141	Parksquare1 Mall of Asia Ehub Parksquare1 Shangrila Parksquare1 Parksquare1	8931489 5560722 8184856 6374444 8931489 8931489



Celeron inside, Cernino, Cardino Logo, Core Inside Intel. Intel Logo Intel Core, Intel Inside Inside

### LIFESTYLE

PRIDE OF PLACE Augusto Villalon

# A calendar of heritage updates

THE LATEST IN THE SERIES of desk calendars and postcards published by the Heritage Conservation Society (HCS) where proceeds go to fund the Society's projects, "Heritage Recycled," the 2008 edition of the calendar is ready.

WELLES - MALANE THE HERMAN IN THE THAT YOU THE

It features fine examples of heritage structures transformed into commercially viable business projects that revialize dying city centers, enhance values of development projects and attract tourism arrivals.

The calendar shows elegant family residences recycled into boutique hotels and banks, a century-old train terminal (Tutuban) now a shopping mall, and the 1930s Art Deco Manila interhational airport (Nielson Tower) in Makati is today a research library and bookstore specializing in books by Filipino authors.

Applicable to most heritage structures, adaptive reuse is a creative mode of conservation that gives them new, alternative functions replacing original, outdated functions.

Adaptive reuse can be grand, like the vintage Department of Finance building now the National Museum. On the other hand, the HCS examples show that modest structures, ancestral homes, obscure town halls, colonial

watchtowers bridges, warehouses and train stations have successfully been recycled into sustainable projects.

Most often than not, heritage structures are now on premium real-estate property. Without strong protective legislation in place, the immediate developer impulse is to demolish rather than restore and recycle.

Today, there is a growing awareness that adap-

tive reuse can enhance property value in many countries.

In Australia, demolition of heritage structures is considered wasteful. Heritage resources are reused because it is good for urban image and the environment. Recycling a valued heritage place, Australians believe, makes adaptive reuse of historic buildings an essential component of sustainable de-

The United States of America abounds with examples of creative (and remunerative) reuse of heritage. Old warehouses in Manhattan's Meatpacking District have been transformed into fashionable and expensive lofts. Elegant mansions in Southern "Gone with the Wind" country are now boutique hotels and restaurant destina-



In London, a decommissioned power plant along the River Thames has taken a new life as the popular, elegant Tate Gallery of Modern Art.

In Mexico City, the Cemento Azteca plant is now an environment-friendly children's museum-El Papalote.

Singapore has salvaged a cluster of decrepit shop houses, turning Boat Quay and Clarke Quay into an eclectic mix of high-end restaurants, al fresco dining, dazzling bars and pubs.

In the Philippine scene, recycling heritage and adaptive reuse are still polemical issues. Should heritage conservation be done strictly "in situ"? Should heritage structures be transferred to different sites and settings, when that is the only way to save them? Is adaptive reuse intrusive? Or, should heritage conservation be a priority at all?

HCS participates in the debate with academics, policy makers and planning officials on national and local government levels resulting in the adapting of heritage policy in many

instances. HCS has established good working relations with the Department of Education, Manila Historical and Heritage Commission, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners and local gov-

ernment units. HCS is involved in actual conservation projects

as well. Since 2003, DepEd and HCS have jointly implemented the Heritage

Schoolhouse Program where HCS undertook planning and construction supervision for three restored schoolhouses: Rizal Elementary in Bacolod (1904), Pampanga High School in San Fernando (1935) and Baguio Central in Baguio (1908).

Aside from having completed the Teachers Camp Master Conservation Plan (1908), HCS supervises conservation of key historic Teachers Camp buildings. Conservation of Roxas Hall is in progress. Conservation of other historic buildings within the camp are scheduled to start within the next few months.

Seminar program

"Philippine Towns & Cities: Reflections of the Past, Lessons for the Future" is the HCS seminar program that enhances civic engagement with local governments units so that the HCS can inform and guide them on the proper care and utilization of a valuable asset built heritage resources. The first seminar was held in November 2006 in Manila.

In our towns and cities, wanton realestate speculation and over-construction are often mistaken for modernization when, in fact, these exert devastating pressure on the historic and cultural core of many of our human settlements. As a result, a valuable economic resource—built heritage is left to deteriorate or is thoughtlessly demolished in the name of progress.

Concerted effort is imperative to protect heritage resources because these are revenue- and job-generating assets that can spark economic revitalization, as the case of Vigan clearly

However, there is a general lack of

awareness in the local government level, which is precisely where policies should be formulated and ordinances passed to declare heritage districts and protect these as the town's or city's prime assets.

Built heritage resources should be the core of any masterplan for urban development and inner town/city revitalization. Livelihood opportunities are gener-

ated by adaptive reuse, the revival of traditional crafts for restoration work



and an increase in tourism receipts.

Significantly, communities begin to feel a "pride of place."

The Philippine Towns & Cities seminar series is a communications campaign to influence policy-akers at the local government level. Through the Mayors' Forum, best practices are shared. Other stakeholders in the Executive branch, the private sector and academe are invited to participate because heritage conservation is a multidisciplinary concern.

In a second seminar, to be held on Nov. 9 in Iloilo City, with the cooperation of Mayor Jerry Treñas, will take this awareness and education campaign to the local governments of the Visayas, where built heritage resources abound in the cities of Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Dumaguete, Tagbi-

> HCS is a nonstock, nonprofit, NGO established in 1994, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and certified by

the Philippine Council for

NGO Certification (PC-

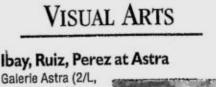
NC). HCS donors receive a tax rebate certificate. HCS has chapters in the cities of Dagupan, Bacolod, Cebu, Iloilo, San

Fernando, (Pampanga); Dapitan, Zamboanga and Silay, in Negros Occidental. Other cities like Baguio and Makati have formed their own heritage com-

To guarantee continuity, HCS has set up student chapters at University of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas, Far Eastern University, Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle University and Adamson University. In the provinces, HCS has chapters at the Holy Angel University (Pampanga), St. Paul's University (Cagayan) and La Salle College (Bacolod).

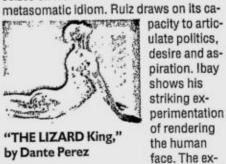
"Heritage Recycled" is available at the HCS Secretariat at P200 a copy. A 10-percent discount is offered to bonafide HCS members. Bulk orders (minimum 100 copies) also enjoy a 10-percent discount plus printing of personal or business logos.

HCS is at Museo Pambata, Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila. Call 5212239, fax 5222497; e-mail info@heritage.org.ph, visit www.heritage.org.ph or http:// heritageconservation.wordpress.com



LRI Bldg., 210 Nicanor Garcia, Bel-Air II, Makati) presents "K2korpus: Jose Ibay, Dante Perez and Jose Tence Ruiz,' three painters and their annual threesided discourse on the human body in and as art. Perez

"SUPA:U2," by José Tence Ruiz



hibit runs Oct.

by Dante Perez

seizes on it as

5-18. Call 8903988.

### Manalang at Drawing Room

The Drawing Room (Metrostar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati) presents an exhibit of new works by Pep Manalang until Oct. 20. The exhibit features new paintings on canvas and paper, inspired by imaginary landscapes. These works incorporate texture, pencil marks and drips, and feature the repetition of vertical lines to create an aura of meditative silence. Call 8976990/7877.

### Piedra at Crucible

Raul Piedra presents "Sanctuary," Oct. 2-8, in Crucible Gallery (4/F SM Megamall, Mandaluyong). Working on small and large canvasses, Piedra continues his textured style of spontaneity and focus on composition over color thus achieving a combination of subtlety and tranquility. Call 6356061.

### Coquilla, Ortiz and Dial at West

The West Gallery presents Daniel Coquilla's "Ibabaw" featuring flyovers, "IBABAW," overpass-

by Daniel Coquilla

es, underbeach scenes, fiestas, Santacruzan, parades and even escalator scenes as main subjects. Meanwhile, Renan Ortiz depicts dystopia through a variety of multimedia forms including video, sculpture, neon signs, tarpaulin and mirror images in "Sandosenang Sarap or The Lies and Farce of Inigo Ramus & The Rivet Thieves," at Gallery 2. Ranelle Dial's "Mga Sisidlan" features pieces that reflect the personalities and histories of its owners as well as dug holes that Dial uses as metaphors for open space and nothingness. Four of the nine oil pieces are rendered in black and white. The three exhibits run Oct. 2-Nov. 3. Call

### Photos by Santos

4119221/0336.

Melbourne-based photographer Emmanuel Santos presents "The Passing of Light," until Oct. 2 in Silverlens Gallery (2320 Pasong Tamo, Extension, Warehouse 2, Yupangco Bldg., Makati). The 38 photographs featured in the exhibit are drawn on the holy scriptures of the Bible, Torah and Koran. Call 8160044.

### Lorenzo at Y

Galerie Y (Glorietta 4, 3/L, Ayala Center, Makati) presents "Quintessence," a onewoman show by Carol Marie Lorenzo, until Oct. 2. Lorenzo's show is an anthropological tour-de-force. Her abstract interpretation of portraiture exemplifies simplicity and economics.

# Book details life and times of Makati village

anniversary with the coffee-table book, "Turning Pages: 50 Years of Bel-Air,"

The book chronicles the history of Bel-Air. Jaime Laya recounts tales shared by past and present residents. Alya Honasan peeks into the lifestyle of the women of Bel-Air in "It's a Woman's World,, and art critic Cid Reyes recounts happy times of young villagers of Bel-Air in "Kababata: Growing Up Together in Bel-Air." He says, "Bel-Air provided an ideal environment for the children who grew up there for the past five decades."

Bel-Air will not be complete without the commercial landscape of

BEL-AIR in Makati marks its 50th Salcedo Village. From organic treats and one-of-a-kind pieces from the Salcedo Market to exciting events and concerts, Bel-Air offered holistic activities for all to foster community building. Barbara Gonzalez writes about these in "Life in Salcedo."

> The core values of this community, hallmarking camaraderie and togetherness, are brought to life in the celebration. annual Pasinaya Francine Medina describes the grand fiesta in the heart of the Makati business district in her article, "Pasinaya: Bel-Air's Heart and Soul." She says, "Though Bel-Air families are diverse, the town fiesta brings them together in the spirit of

fostering a stronger bond among members of the community." Aside from stories and insights, family recipes from the residents of Bel-Air themselves will also be featured.

Reyes, editor of the book, summarizes the book's essence, "A nostalgic trip to the past, a delicious food trip, as prepared by Bel-Air's chefs and foodies, and a glimpse into the future of a dynamic community as a model of cherished Filipino values: bayanihan, pakikisama, pagdiriwang."

This book was done with the support of the Women of Bel-Air Foundation Inc. and the participation of Ayala Land and Rockwell.

"Turning Pages: 50 Years of Bel-



Air" will be launched on the evening of Oct. 2 at the Multi-Purpose Hall of Bel-Air. Call 8954011 / 8996509 8954408 and look for Liann Panghulan or visit www.barangaybelair.ph.

### WWII traveling exhibit now in Dumaguete

officials attend the ribbon-cutting ceremonies of the Veterans Bank traveling exhibit: Presidential assistant for Veterans Affairs Jesus Terry Adevoso (partly hidden); Fr. Antonio F. Moreno, SJ, Ateneo de Zamboanga president; VFP district commander Leandro Pacio; City Councilor Jaime Cabato (partly hidden); Rep. Maria Isabelle Climaco; and PVB vice president for corporate communications Mike Villareal.

PVB and Ateneo de Zamboanga University



THE WORLD WAR II EXHIBIT OF THE Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB), "The War of Our Fathers... A tribute to the Filipino Freedom Fighter," has been brought to Mindanao and Visayan cities. It is in the main library of Silliman University, Dumaguete City, until Oct. 10.

After Dumaguete, the exhibit will be brought to Tacloban City in time for the 63rd commemoration of MacArthur's Leyte landing.

The exhibit features WWII vintage photographs, artifacts and memorabilia. It aims to share with the public compelling and dramatic stories of Filipino war heroes.

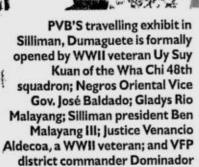
PVB president Ricardo A. Balbido Jr. said through this project, the bank hoped to honor WWII heroes and to help educate Filipinos, especially the youth, on one of the darkest chapters in Philippine history.

A private commercial bank, PVB is owned by some 300,000 World War II veterans and heirs.



PANCHO PIANO TO EXHIBIT IN NEW YORK

Artist Pancho Piano poses with guests Aurora Lazo of SM Lazo Medical Center, Connie Guanzon-Garcia and Ambassador to Russia Victor Garcia during the opening of his exhibit in Heritage Gallery. Piano is set to hold a solo exhibit in Chelsea Art Museum, 556 W. 22 St., New York City, on Oct. 8, upon the invitation of Sorrel Publishing Company. "Luminous Space" features the Penafrancia festival, Mayon impressions, Ibalong folklore and Bicol fiestas done in both abstract and figurative.



**Dumalag, Dumaguete City** 

administrator.



"KASAYSAYAN sa Bawa't Oras," by Juan Sajid Imao



"LIVING within Nature's Confines," by Wilhemina S. Garcia

# Again, the question: Should art be useful?

By Constantino C. Tejero



"LOVEFAITHHOPE," by Lynyrd Arwyn V. Paras

"YAKAP," by

Glennd R. Pagaduan

THE METROBANK ART & DESIGN Excellence (MADE) must be the most comprehensive national art competition today, as it gives equal emphasis to visual and allied arts and includes categories not only in sculpture and painting (oil and water-based medium) but also in architecture and interior design.

Also, it has adopted the advocacy "Your environment shapes you." And it's not only a slogan but a total approach: "We believe that a creative and sustainable environment fosters holistic human development."

Thus, in a statement, the Metrobank Foundation betrays a propensity for utilitarian art: "More than just mimicking or complementing the beauty of nature, art has developed pragmatic practices for sustaining the environment."

That's rather limiting. But if it is really for excellence these artists are striving, and the organizers are, in effect, promoting a culture of excellence, we're for it, too.

This year's MADE held its awarding ceremony and opened a gala exhibit of the winners and finalists on Sept. 21 at Le Pavilion, Metrobank Avenue, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Blvd. and Edsa, Pasay. It was an impressive show, including the program, particu-

larly the presentation of the winners with clips of their artworks projected on three panels in the background.

The exhibit transfers Plaza lobby on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in

### Tenuous connection

We would want to know, though, whether the environment the organizers are speaking about is related to ecology. Because if that's the case, we don't see how the winning paintings and sculptures can be very useful.

These pieces have aesthetics of their own that can't be tied to a slogan or even apprehended by

a garden-variety environmentalist.

Mark Andy Garcia's "The Attack of the Righteous," grand-prize winner in oil on canvas, displays an intense expressionism

that could no more cleanse the artist's psyche than it could clean the sewers.

Jaime Gubaton's "Connected," third prize in oil, is a photorealist monochromatic image of powerlines and electric posts. The three-figure composition obviously references the Calvary and could have been a potent indictment of urban mess, but the artist chooses to sentimentalize the skyline with

Harry Mark Gonzales' "A Protest against the Guimaras Oil Spill," grand prize in sculpture, depicts the monstrous mutation and suffering of marine life. In creating the terracotta piece, the artist is said to have even mixed the black oil with the red clay as a

way of memorializing that environmental havoc. The artwork, however, has a life of its own, and whatever connection it has to the ecological disaster is tenuous and can be gleaned only from the title.

Mervin Vergara's "Weaving Dreams," grand prize in water-based medium on paper, alludes to the enviwith ronment monochromatic pattern mimicking indigenous weave, but it's pure decoratif.

Pagaduan's Glennd "Yakap," a rendition of the Mother and Child in syntoday to the Metrobank thetic marble which received a special citation, is quite beautiful in its ex-Makati, and runs until pressiveness-but it's just an expression of emotion, motherly love, obviously irrelevant to sustainable environment.

### True strength

What obviously work for the environment are the allied arts. MADE has been credited as "the only art program recognizing achievements in architecture and interior design." And herein lies its true strength.

Take José Ricardo Adriano's "The House of X: An Extraordinarily Cross-Ventilated X-Form Home," grand prize in architecture. For this house in Alabang, the architect tapped the traditional ventanilla and extensively used it around the structure to serve as cooling system and source of natural light for the interiors.

Adriano has been praised for his "environ-



r un let reine mediaecent und in hund in un un

"THE ATTACK of the Righteous," by Mark Andy R. Garcia

mentally receptive homes" and for designing "climactically responsive structures integrated with modern technology and materials," which is just as well.

In interior design, the entries prove to be just as ecologically attuned and environmentally effective. Design masterpieces have been created from recycled junk and indigenous materials.

Cheryl Montebon's "Cocoon," which received a special citation, uses stones, shells, bamboo planks.

Wilhemina Garcia's grandprize winner "Living within Nature's Confines" uses a lot of junk but one would be hard put to identify them amid that elegance: capiz windows transformed into a sliding room partition; mirrored cabinet used as ceiling accent; sofa springs turned into light fixtures.

### Elite circle

The Metrobank Foundation Prize for Achievement in Sculpture was given to Juan Sajid Imao. He joins previous winners Dan Raralio, Duddley Diaz and Peter de Guzman, whom MADE recognizes as "the elite circle of pioneering young sculptors."

Imao is noted for integrating into his art indigenous motifs such as the ukkil and the sari-

manok. Although a Muslim, he doesn't flinch from Christian iconography and has created

stately statuary of Christ and crucifixes. He has been cited mostly for his public art, those monuments to Rizal in Fort Santiago, Cavite and Ateneo de Manila University; Gabriela Silang in Abra; Lapu-Lapu in the Agrifina Circle. An interesting addition to monumental sculptures "Kasaysayan sa Bawa't Oras," that massive bronze sundial installed in Fort Bonifacio

Global City. These, of course, are environmental art. The others may be there only for beholding and admiring, but the last is interactive, and so comes handy when the kids get restless.



"THE HOUSE of X: An Extraordinarily Cross-Ventilated X-Form Home," by José Ricardo A. Adriano

# Pacena's circular

painted, even penciled and scratched, as some seem. It shows a lone tree standing on a grassy expanse, the opposite of the video

"A PROTEST against the Guimaras Oil Spill,"

by Harry Mark C. Gonzales

Pacena's variation of Kilmer's line for the title could be a chide to the inhabitants of the former for not making the simpler choice; it may also bring an industry-vs-environment slant.

After all, this major solo exhibition is what the artist calls his "...commentary on life. It plays with the representation of dichotomies: good and evil, suffering and joy, and the cycle of life and death."

 Apt for the reference to cycles are the red balls present in most of his pieces in this body of works which he says represent circumstances that individuals randomly find themselves in. They are perhaps like bubbles of predicament that can enclose any human being at any given time.

These experiences may entail pain, sorrow, euphoria or anger, all of which various people may express as with the color red, incidentally the shade constant in all of the works.

### Lifeblood

As lifeblood of the artworks, the crimson paint that had been washed and dripped down one side or from the top of the canvas may very well be Pacena's own. He depicts with empathy the travails of souls trudging the same paths, bearing the same burdens despite their different lives.

"The Quick Brown Dog Jumped Down



"UNDER Construction"

and Died" apparently from crisscrossed wires above the grassy foreground while people continue traversing the lines against buildings in the distance. These are the tightrope walkers in the circus of life, on each of them seems to have dripped the contents of those spheres of predicament. They are teetering birds on the wires of existence.

In "And So It Is," a flat plank curves into, then out of, yet another red ball then splits two ways toward opposite directions. Evidence again of common experiences with different outcomes that result in differing choices as Pacena portrays his take on "free

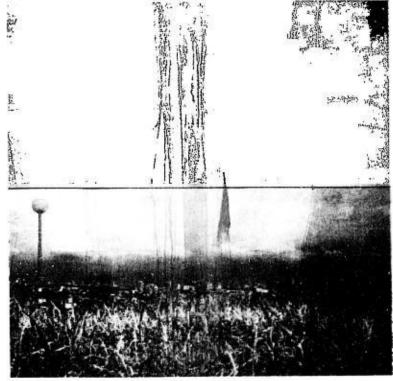
"Humps Ahead" also features the flat curved planks, his "paths" this time are cut after they rise, as if humps with gaps in be-

Here he "depicts the illusionary life map we create." Whether the boy on the bicycle will fall or land safely over on the next path will depend on how well he controls his jump with the bike, or he may very well turn back.

As the artist says: "Life is about connections and relationships and the challenges we encounter in between destinations.

"We make our challenges in the landscape we call reality. Do the conflicts really exist? Or is it all in the mind?"

Certainly, these were all conflicts on Pacena's mind, finely attuned to dichotomies. He had ably executed them with computer-enhanced pictures of green grounds contrasted against urban or industrial sites in states of



"I AM the Dust, You Are the Dust"

destruction or smoggy hazes, his "reality landscapes" he had devised through "decalcomania and painting."

That his photograph-canvases have been printed with archival ink assures that his artworks would stand the test of time. And they should, for this multimedia man's rhetoric will always be humankind's, too.

"Parallel Wounds" runs until Oct. 7 at Pasilyo Guillermo Tolentino, Cultural Center of the Philippines, 10 a.m.-6 p.m, Tuesday-Sunday. Call 8323702 or 0915-7810135.

E-mail the author at majorday @gmail.com

"WHEN Day and Night Collides"

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER-LIFESTYLE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007

Pacena's circular arallelisms

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos Contributor

N THE MIDDLE OF the exhibit "Parallel Wounds" is a two-hour video loop titled "City of Wounded Souls."

Presented on a Bravia screen provided by Sony Corp., the predominantly blue-tinged footage might appear unchanging at first, as it shows the Edsa-Ortigas interchange with its flyovers, smattering of high-rise buildings, and the roofs of surrounding upscale residences.

Then one notices move-

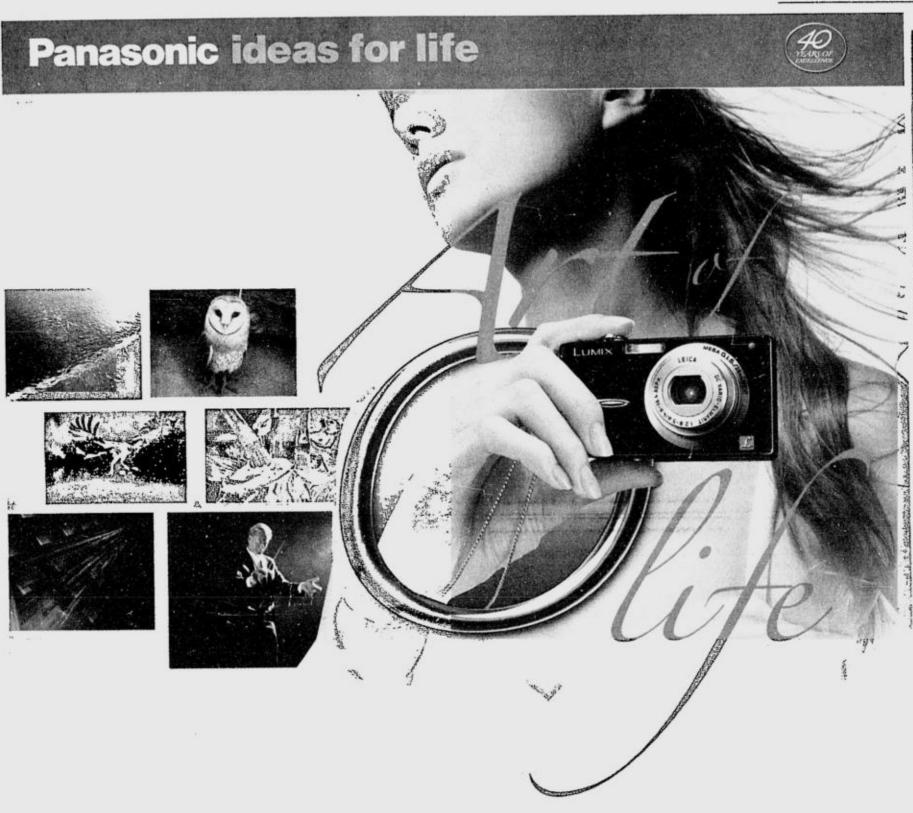
ment-vehicular traffic, traveling buses and cars tiny on the already wide screen.

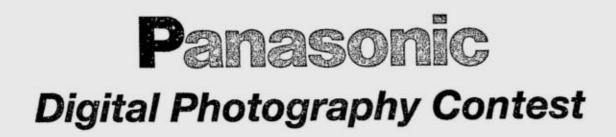
Flanked by seven large works on each side, artist Jaime Pacena II renders his video art as part of a question Which would give you a sensible definition of comfort? Is it an urban environment with all the artificial luxuries?

He thus pairs it with "I Think They Shall Never See," hung to the right of the television screen, to further query: "Or is it a simple life in some obscure location?"

The latter is one of the 14 digitally manipulated photographs printed on canvas, manually

PACENA/ DS





**RULES AND MECHANICS:** 

1. Eligibility. All photographers ages 18 and above are eligible. Only one entry per photographer is allowed,

2. Camera Brand. Any type or brands of cameras are allowed to be used for the contest.

3. Submission of Entries:

a. Entries should be submitted in unmounted printed sample ( size ).

b. Digital files: RGB (not CMYK), JPG format with a maximum width of 1024 pixels and a maximum height of 788 pixels (72 dpl). Digital files will be projected for the judges. c. Entries that are unmounted should be in flat packages or mailing tubes. Digital files must be in CD format.

d. Strictly no Photoshop (or any other software) manipulation for the submitted entries.

e. Each entry should have a one-sentence explanation for their captured images along with the appropriate title.

f. Deadline for submission of entries will be on September 30, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. adddressed to Full Circle Communications, Inc. at the 15th Floor, Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

4. Criteria for Judging: a. Creativity - 30%

The amount of imagination, artistic merit, originality and expressiveness of the photo. How well does the entry achieve its client's mission. How does it exactly convey the message of the contest ?

b. Relevance to thame - 25% The amount of style, skill and craft that was put into the entry. c. Quality of Presentation - 20% How well does the entry communicate?

d. Visual impact - 25% 5. Prizes: (Participants can only win once)

1st Prize : Php 60,000 + a Panasonic Camera Major Prizes : 2nd Prize: Php 30,000 + a Panasonic Camera 3rd Prize : Php 15,000 + a Panasonic Camera

Panasonic Certificates and Gift Bags. Finalista

6. Contest Promo. School tours will be conducted to promote " The Art of Life by Panasonic " photography contest.

7. Decision, Judges' decision is final. 8. Disqualification. Employees of Panasonic Philippines, its advertising and public relations agencies, including their relatives up to second degree of consangularity or

affinity are disqualified from Joining the contest. 9. Announcement of Winners. Winning entries shall be announced on October 15, 2007.

Our Medla Partner:



Visit us at www.panasonlc.com.ph LUMIX



Some of the county's most prominent professional photographers attend Panasonic's photo contest launch. In photo are Wig Tysmans, George Tapan, Mandy Navasero and Raffy Paredes (representing Jim Paredes) together with Panasonic Executives Rene Almeda, Hiroyuki Iwaki and Ellen Suarez.

### Deadline for Panasonic's "The Art of Life" photo contest extended!

Panasonic, one of the country's premier brands in the appliance and electronics industry, extends its target for the "The Art of Life by Panasonic" photo contest up to October 05, 2007, providing more chances for amateur and professional photographers to showcase their photography repertoire.

Panasonic hopes to highlight photographic excellence that is distinctly Pinoy as the creative flair of many Filipinos behind the lens will be put to the test.

Explore and tinker on motion, colors and angles vis-à-vis life's greatest wonders like travel, music, fashlon, sports, careers, family-oriented concepts and other daily occurrences in the urban and rural settings, highlighting the "art of life" present in both the traditional and modern ways of living.

After "The Art of Life by Panasonic" finalists are chosen, they will continue their artistic quest through a depiction of "Panasonic in the life of the consumers" by going to the nearest Panasonic dealers and portray Panasonic's contribution to the Filipino way of life.

As the art in innovation is set in focus, Panasonic takes another milestone of modern technology for the society's continuous development.

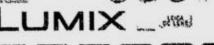
Only one entry per photographer is allowed. Any type or brand of camera can be used in the contest. Each entry should be both in an unmounted printed sample sizes placed in flat packages or mailing tubes and in digital files in CD format. Place your name, address and contact numbers on the back of the envelope for your submitted entries.

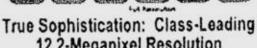
Entries will be judged according to creativity, relevance to theme, quality of presentation and visual impact. First prize winner will receive P50,000, second prize winner P30,000 and the third prize winner P15,000. The top three winners will also receive their own Panasonic camera each.

Interested individuals may send their entries to Full Circle Communications at 15/F Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Tel. Nos. 637-1118/637-1116









12.2-Megapixel Resolution plus a 28mm Wide Angle Lens

bbe) or 283 (Smart)

Call Facial Care at 892-SKIN

THE LAVISHLY embroidered La Naval vestment.

**DONATIONS** of

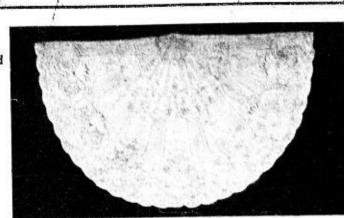
gems and jewels

has made the

richly ornate.

across the centuries

scepter of La Naval



# The Mother of all 20025

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero Contributor

CTOBER IN MANILA IS SO famously nostalgic because this was the month of the city's greatest fiestas," writes Nick Joaquin in his book, "Almanac for Manileños" (Mr and Ms Publishing Co.).

"The celebrations began in Intramuros-sa loob ng Maynila-with the novena of the Santo Rosario of the Dominicans and the pageantry of La Nayal," the National Artist says, adding:

"The month was thus one long festive chain, from La Naval de Manila to the fiesta in Binondo, and each festival has its own feria and concerts and gala procession. La Naval was Old Manila's 'procession de los processiones.

The focus of the celebrations then and now is the image of Our Lady of the Rosary, La Naval de Manila. The Manila icon was canonically crowned in 1907 as Queen and Patroness of the Philippines, the first Marian icon in the Philippines to have enjoyed the privilege. It was said that upon the personal request of the Dominican leadership in 1906 in the Vatican, Pope Pius X quickly acceded to the request and himself wrote down the accession long-hand right there

and then. The canonical privilege given to La Naval cannot be taken for granted. A canonical coronation is an act of the duly expressed through a papal bull, wherein the Roman Catholic Church recognizes a Marian image under a specific name being venerated in a certain

locality. The venerated image should be historically old, acclaimed, and in times of need, serves as a beacon of faith and hope

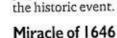
To mark the 100th anniversary of the papal coronation of La Naval de Manila, the Philippine Dominican Province will launch on Oct. 7 the mother of all coffee-table books, 'The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of a People's Faith'

Faith (2007, 523

pages)," to commemorate

among the people. It also manifests recognition of the fervent devotion of the faith-

This year marks the centenary of the coronation, and the Philippine Dominican Province has published the lavish coffee-table book, "The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of a Peo-



The image gained legendary status during the five famous battles of La Naval in 1646, in which an ill-equipped Filipino-Spanish fleet emerged triumphant over the powerful Protestant Dutch armada.

The victory, considered miraculous, was attributed to the intercession of the Blessed Mother under her title, Our Lady of the Rosary, to whom the Filipinos and Spaniards had prayed constantly before and after the battles.

"The year 1846 was a nervous year for both Spaniards and native Filipinos," reports Florentino H. Hornedo in "Battle of La Naval," a chapter in this book under review. "For decades the Dutch had marauded the Southeast Asian seas, and their pirate ships lay in wait for Philippine galleons from Mexico's rich trade, and for hapless merchant ships in southern Philippine and Indonesian seas."

Much of Manila still lay in ruins, following a severe earthquake the previous year. And the only ships defending the country then were two merchant galleons which were hastily converted into battleships. The battleground stretched from the waters of Pangasinan in the north to Masbate in the

The first battle occurred on March 16 off Bolinao, Pangasinan, followed by another encounter on July 29 in an island south of Marinduque and north Romblon. The battle was in the afternoon and a Dutch fireboat was sunk. The third engagement witnessed a heavy volley of cannon shots, and an exchange of artillery fire likened to "the explosion of so many volcanoes." This was on July 31 between Mindoro and Maestre de Campo Island.

A lull lasting for six weeks ensued, with THE MOTHER/ E3

the biggest crowd of its time.

THE VAST throng that took part in the traditional La Naval

celebration in 1907. Newspaper estimates put the crowd at 150,000,

Mini Meet Package tarts at 1900 west per person for a minimum of 15 perso inclusive of 2 macks and set bruch, whole day use of the function room, flowing coffee and but tea, conference bit Wedding Package Baptismal Package

Kiddie Party Package Price starts at P29,000 nett



Mandaluyong Cily, Philipplines 1550 Banquet Sales Office Telephone (632) 702-271 to 14 - Fax (632) 633-9261 Trunklines (632) 633-1501 to 10 - Fax (632) 632-0845 www.legendvillas.com.ph

Legend Hates International Corporation



DESIGNED by Galo Ocampo, the stained-glass triptyich in one section of the vast Santo Domingo Church depicts the 1646 La Naval de Manila battles, St. Dominic receiving the rosary from the Blessed Mother, and the 1571 Battle of Lepanto.



# make it happen

The future is in your hands. John Robert Powers has a program just for you to make it happen! Modeling, Acting, Personal Development, Executive Grooming. Earn the worldwide John Robert Powers Diploma.

CALL NOW: 892 9511 or 927 0465

Legaspi Village, Makati City

Casmer Building, 195 Salcedo St., Ground Floor, Cinderella Building 825 EDSA, Quezon Otty

FREE CONSULTATION. 0% INTEREST. ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

Kaya ba ng Puso Mo ang Lifestyle Mo?

Add ADDLIFE COOTO to your life & lifestyle!

ADDLIFE COOTO and nagbibligay sigla at energy sa puso. Sa ating pagtanda higit pa sa oo any nababawas sa ating katawan Magsiguro Mag-ADDLIFE.

Available in leading divigations hattonedidat









BY JESS ABRERA

BY P.M. JUNIOR



**PUGAD BABOY** 

YUNG SINABI NI MIRIAM SA SENATE HEARING E MATASAL NANG INIISIP NG

MBA PINOY NA NA ANG IMPORTANTE LANG SA KANILA E LAHI AT PERA

BAKIT ? NOON BANG GUMUHO 'YUNG BUNDOK NG BASURA SA PAYATAS E SINO ANG UNANG DUMATING AT HULING UMALIS SA NAKA SUSULASOK NA DI BAMGA VOLUNTEER FIREMEN NO BINONDO

BUKOD SA HINDI NILA KALAHI ANG TINULUNGAN NILA BAYAD ANG GINA. SAGIP SA BUHAY

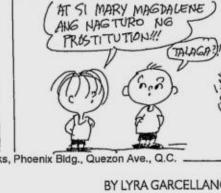
HIN-NI UTU-UTO. IN-TSIK E KAMI KATANGIAN NAMIN KALAHATING CASE LANS, MAO MA-LING. BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

I-SA FA MUKHANTANG

LOVEKNOTS CHINESE DAW AND NAG TURO SA ATIN DE NIRO, ANG SABI DAW NI SENATOR MIRIAM ...







oveknots: Mukhang Baby...Pag Tulog is now available at Centralbooks, Phoenix Bidg., Quezon Ave., Q.C.



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA USONG USO TALAGA SI-MULA PA ELEMENTARY MGA TAWAGAN NG PERO YUNG AKIN MEDYO HARDCORE EH. EWAN. MALAKI RAW MATA KO E. MADAMI. SINA BOY BALI-SAWSAW, TOTOU GALIS, NENENG ULING, BABY PANGALAN HI! WAS TANDERNA NA SI CALL ME MARARAM

10 Small salmon 14 Of bees 15 Cosmetics

Ingredient 16 Father of Balder

film 20 Blasting letters 21 Bus. show

23 Young salmon 24 Objective

25 Dweeb 28 Alert to danger

34 Avid 35 Of a pelvic bone

38 Larry McMurtry novel

42 City on the Adige 43 Earn

46 Beer picks out (intimidate)

48 Fastidious 50 Teacher's favorite

54 Biblical grain measure 56 TV spots

property 62 Bypass 63 Garden dandy

66 Guitarist Lofgren 67 Stair post

DOWN

Resting atop 3 Italian automaker

5 Act the

**ACROSS** Civilian clothes 6 Attendee

17 Hope/Crosby

22 Habituates

30 Collected charity

37 Moray

41 Golfer's need

44 Liberal or fine follower

Make certain

59 Monopoly

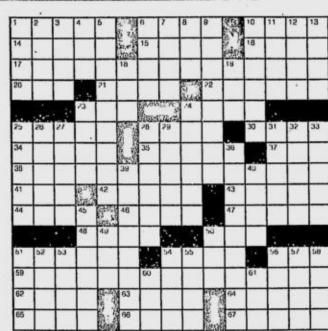
64 Boxing venue 65 Lulus

K follower?

Bit

translator

### DAILY/CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten Highwood, IL

6 Struggle for breath Assortment

8 Geological time period Provincial 10 Linking verb

11 Aroma 12 Place on the payroll 13 Billfold fillers

18 Moronic start? 19 Santa \_\_, CA 23 At liberty 24 Swindles 25 Seed covering

26 Irrigate 27 Long-legged 28 With

intelligence 29 In solitary 31 Apprehensive 32 Battlefield

lifesaver 33 Deadly sin 36 Vehicle for the woods

39 Surrenders as

part payment

45 Action-scene elements 49 Anger

50 Garden vegetable 51 Perched on 52 18-wheeler

53 Quick cut

40 Quiet relaxation 54 Eye of a Frenchman 55 Make untidy

56 Again 57 Sand ridge

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A L U M S A L L M B O T C H N O N C E R O I A D E L A

NOSEDIVESESIOUX

D O I T Y O U R S E L F E R S

R I N S E M I R E L S A S

E D G E D E T A R U S S O

(C)2007 Tribuns Medis Servicus, Inc.

All rights reserved.

CASTLEDBBABYS

INGOFFTHEMAP

58 Make watertight 60 Indian title 61 Afore

### CONCEPTISSUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green 6 5 8 6 8 9 8 Q 3 9 8 9 8 6 5

**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU** Difficulty Level \*

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD

6

7

9 8

3 5 9 6

5 2 9 3 4



Answer to previous puzzle

9 8 2 1 5 3 6 4 7

47689132

3 5

3 8 2 6

4 5 9 1

1 4 7 2 5 9 8

6 2 1 8 3 5 9

4

4 2 6

2.6 5

9114

7 8 3

7 1

8



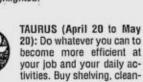


10/01

HOTOSFO2 Charles de la constante de la

YOU BORN TODAY: You are witty, daring and competitive. You assume leadership in any situation easily. Even though you have strong organizational skills and you're persistent and hardworking, your charm and diplomacy win others to you. Nevertheless, you're surprisingly independent and strong-willed! In the year ahead, your focus will be on partnerships and your closest friendships. Birthdate of: Julie Andrews, singer/actress; Jimmy Carter, 39th US president; Richard Harris, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your relationships with partners and close friends are important now. That's because the Sun is completely opposite your sign now, and these parts of your life are highlighted.

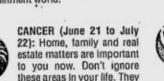


Ing supplies, file folders or

at work and at home.

whatever you need to get better organized





need your attention.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're very keen to earn money now, as well as spend it. Cash flow and possessions are definitely on your mind. Perhaps you're contemplating a ma-

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):

This is not a time to stay at

home. Short trips, daily er-

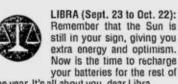
rands, buying and selling,

plus increased reading,

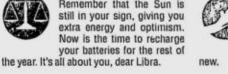
writing and studying, all de-

mand your time.

jor purchase.



(When your birthday arrives.)



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov.

21): Try to take a back-seat

position right now. Play it

low-key. This is the time to

think about how you want

your new year to unfold.



with others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Try to satisfy your need for adventure and thrills. You want more out of life. But most especially, you want to learn something

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to

Dec. 21): Enjoy your in-creased popularity! Accept all invitations. Friends and

groups all want to see your

face. Talk about your goals

and dreams for the future

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to

Jan. 19): The Sun is still at

high noon in your chart, acting like a spotlight on you.

Because others notice you

now, make the most of this.

People easily respect you now!



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 28): You feel quite intense about almost everything right now. However, it's a good time to discuss how to

deal with shared property, inheritances and anything that is jointly held.

### LIFESTYLE

# The Mother of all 200725

the Spaniards believing the enemy had retreated. But on Sept. 15, three Dutch warships closed in on a poorly armed, unescorted galleon ship which, however, managed to fire back and evade capture, retreating to Mariveles.

The fifth and final battle took place at the mouth of Manila Bay, near Corregidor, on Oct. 4. And "the fight was fierce and bloody and lasted some four hours. Yet despite the superiority in arms of the enemy, they were badly battered by the lone Philippine ship" (Hornedo).

### **Pilgrimage**

The battle of La Naval was over, and the officers and men of the Philippine armada fulfilled their vow by making a pilgrimage—barefoot—to the shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary (Nuestra Señora del Rosario) at Santo Domingo Church in the Walled City.

As Ramon N. Villegas puts it, "When powerful men within their walls were at odds, Our Lady was brought out in procession to calm the chaos; when armies bent on war were without, the besieged beseeched her to intercede for them with her Son; when fire threatened to consume or earthquake shook their world, rosaries were to be found in the hands of Filipinos, supplicants all to the Divine Will."

### lewels, saints

However, Our Lady—specifically her jewels—has attracted not only devotion but greed as well. A report from a Jesuit, Fr. Juan Lopez, in 1638 states that "...about two thousand pesos worth jewels were stolen in Manila from the Nuestra Señora del Rosario in Santo Domingo (church). But the thief (who was a Spaniard) was discovered, and most of it was recovered."

Many jewels have been added to the collection but today, according to Villegas, there are real as well as fake diamonds: "While we cannot fault the intentions of some devotees over the past two centuries, it is somehow in bad taste to make Our Lady wear fake diamonds mixed with precious stones, like some of her social-climbing devotees do."

Regalado Trota José writes about the pantheon of Dominican saints in the procession of La Naval from the 1850s up. And there are many dear to the hearts of Filipinos, like San José (St. Joseph, spouse of Mother Mary), San Lorenzo Ruiz, San Martin de Porres, Santa Rosa de Lima, San Vicente Ferrer, Santa Catalina de Siena, Santo Domingo de Guzman, and Santo Tomás de Aquino.

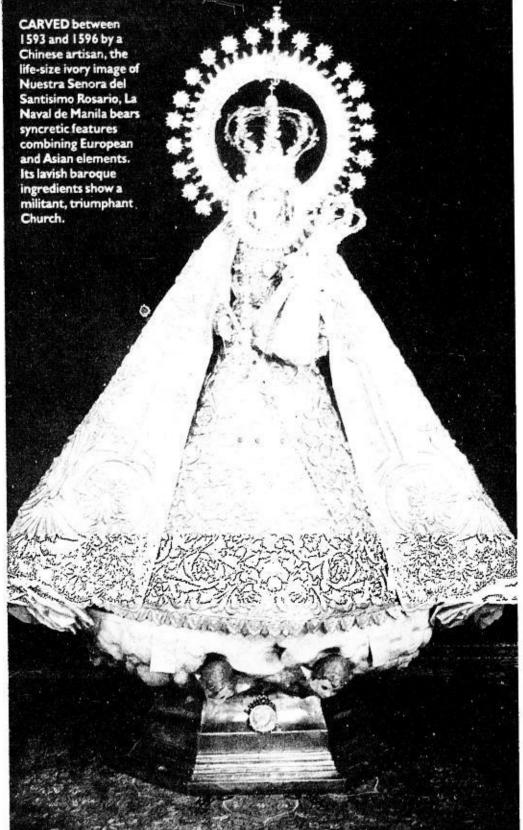
From the Asian mainland comes Santo Tomás Khuong and San Vicente Liem de la Paz, both Vietnamese, and Santa Magdalena de Nagasaki, Japan.

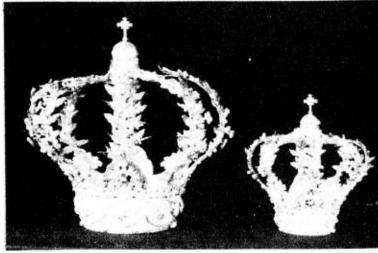
If the theft of her jewels was a low point for Our Lady, a high point was her being crowned by the Triune God (the Holy Trinity) on Aug. 15, 1867, with the last construction of the Dominican church in Manila. A similar altarpiece was installed in the Vigan Cathedral, Ilocos Sur, on July 2, 1892.

### British sacrilege

. The theft of jewels was nothing compared to the abuse Our Lady of the Rosary and her Son suffered at the hands of British and Indian troops during the British Invasion of 1862. The rampaging soldiers of the Crown decapitated the sacred image, yanked off the arms of the Baby Jesus, and made off with precious stones.

The British did not leave until April

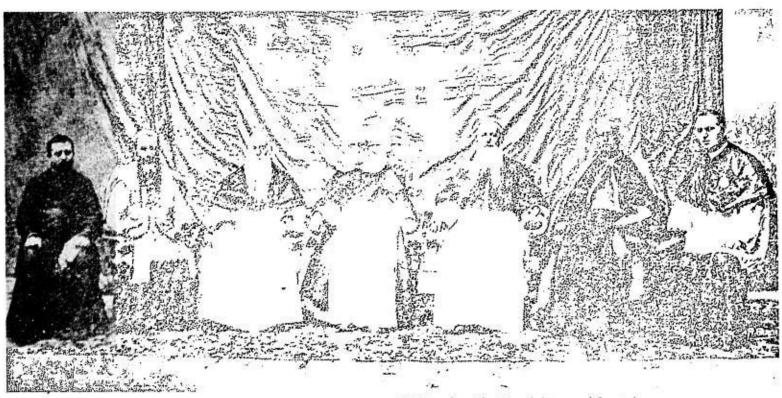




THE CROWNS of La Naval and El Nino



MONSIGNOR Ambrosio Agius, OSB, apostolic delegate to Manila. He crowned La Naval in behalf of Pope Pius X.



THE 1907 canonical coronation of La Naval drew Asian church dignitaries to Manila: Fr. Pedro Maria, vicar-general of Hong Kong; Monsignor Domingo Pozzoni, apostolic vicar of HK; Monsignor Maximo Velasco, apostolic vicar of Tunquing (Vietnam); Fr. Miguel Narro, Dominican provincial; Msgr. Isidro Clemente, apostolic vicar of Emuy (China); Bishop Jose Barlin of Nueva Caceres; Msgr. Elidio Gouvea, dean of Macau.



THE LAST Santo Domingo Church in Intramuros, where La Naval was enshrined until the Japanese invasion in 1941.

1764, when the Dominicans celebrated a thanksgiving Mass. "Fray Zurita, who delivered the sermon on that occasion, glorified Our Lady and her Son for taking on themselves all the injuries and sacrilege committed by the British as a painful lesson for the city," says Trota José.

The latter notes that the crescent moon at the feet of Our Lady symbolizes the Immaculate Conception. The moon receives its light from the sun. ("a Woman Clothed with the Sun"), while the stars allude to the Daughter of Sion over Israel and the Twelve Tribes (or twelve Apostles) of the Church.

This book incorporates many other components and features associated with Nuestra Señora del Rosario de la Naval (the latter title added after the naval battles of 1646), including Our Lady's choirboys, the Tiples de Santo Domingo; La Naval fiestas in Pampanga; other venerated images in Dominican shrines in the Philippines; a feature on Nick Joaquin, that faithful chronicler of La Naval de Manila, and La Naval sacred music.

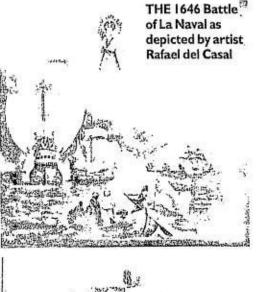
### 'Despedida'

Regarding the latter, Julie Ann A. Hidalgo says that "easily the most awaited and admired song" is *Despedida a la Virgen* by "P. Hernandez," or perhaps he was also known as D. Leandro Hernandez. Unfortunately, nothing is known about the composer, although the music sheet is still extant.

As for the hymn itself, Nick Joaquin once described it as "a haunting song... that once heard, is not to be forgotten."

The icon of La Naval is sacred art, sacred and secular history, and sociological and spirtual phenomenon all together. During the most critical points of Philippine history, La

THE MOTHER/ E4





M. R. P. Fr. Sandago Para, Postulador de la Luronectua

DOMINICAN Father Santiago Paya, postulator for the canonical coronation.

# The Mother of all icons From page E3

Naval was there-when Ninoy character as a people, what is Aguino was assassinated and his bloody remains lay in wake at Santo Domingo Church in 1983, and when the masses went to Edsa in the 1986 revolution (the image was brought there, to give courage to the freedom fighters).

### Symbol of Pinoy's best

Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP, the acting rector of UST and former chairman of the Commission on Higher Education, emphasizes the relevance of La Naval in an essay in the book:

"This miraculous image reminds us that heroism will never die among Filipinos despite the doomsday prediction of modern prophets that we Filipinos, because of our damaged culture, have a tendency to selfdestruct... This image is the symbol of what is good in our

true in our culture, what is powerful in our faith. If we can display this image in all its grandeur, why can we not exhibit the best in each of us for all the world to see?'

Edited by INQUIRER arts and culture editor Lito B. Zulueta, this book is of interest not only to Marian devotees but to students of history as well. It is long, lovingly detailed, richly illustrated, and meticulously researched and written by specialists in their field.

"The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of a People's Faith" will be launched on Oct. 7, 1:30 p.m., at the Santo Domingo Church. For book orders and details of the activities to mark the Centennial of the Canonical Coronation of La Naval this month, call 7126271-

Promo runs from October 1 to December 31, 2007.

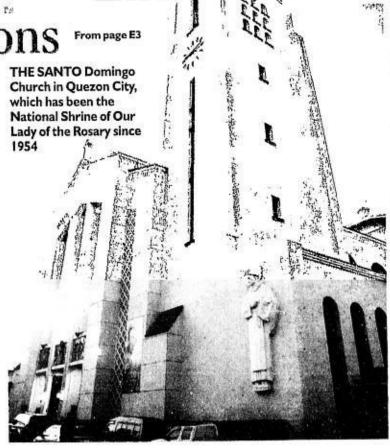
Terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details.

Call 8700-766 or 1-800-10-8-700-766 (Toll Free) to apply.

Issued by Metrobank Card Corporation, a joint venture of Motrobank and ANZ

Cardholders of newly approved and activated Methobank Credit Cards automatically earn five (5) raifle entries!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4538 Series of 2007.



### Photo auction for cancer cause

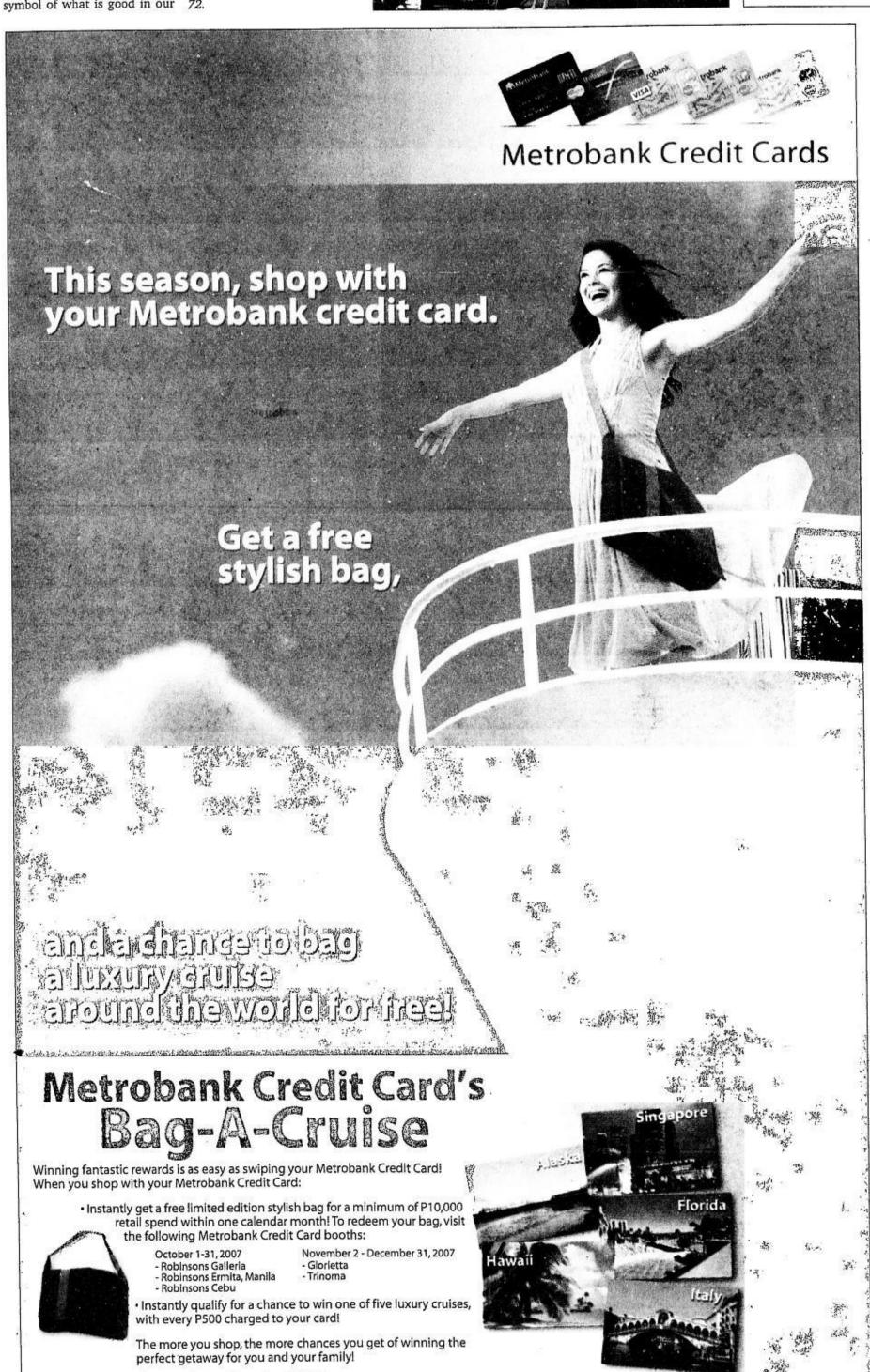


BY MIGUEL Fabie III

AS PART OF THE CANCER Institute Foundation's campaign on cervical cancer prevention, a photo auction will be held on Oct. 6, 6 p.m. at Silverlens Gallery (Pa-Tamo Extension, song Makati).

To be auctioned off are photographs by Jo Avila, Bahaghari, Miguel Fabie III, Ronnie Lazaro, Jun de Leon, Isa Lorenzo, At Maculangan, Billy Mondonedo, Emmanuel Santos, Ivan Sarenas, John Silva, Pilar Tua! son, Wig Tysmans, Lilen Uy, Jake Versoza and Denise Weldon, and an etching by National Artist Benedicto

Proceeds will support the Cervical Cancer Prevention Program. Call 8160044.



### **Bag-A-Cruise** with Metrobank **Credit Cards!**

Shop with your Metrobank Credit Card, hop onboard, and bag a chance to embark on a voyage beyond your wildest dreams! This season, shop with your Metrobank Credit Card and not only can you get a free limited edition stylish bag but you might also just find yourself cruising around the world!

With Metrobank Card Corporation's newest promo, trekking the globe on a cruise isn't such a far-fetched reality. Bask in the luxury of an Asian cruise - a rich tapestry of ancient traditions and breathtaking sights. Climb aboard and discover this fascinating region from cosmopolitan Singapore to the temples and palaces of Bangkok to the colonial architecture of Malaysia. Discover the magic of the Mediterranean and revel in the warmth and beauty of the Mediterranean's coastline and countryside while relishing the magnificence of Italy, Sicily, Greece, and Turkey.

Take a scenic artic adventure on an Alaskan cruise. Experience the rugged beauty, magnificent wildlife, and phenomenal fishing in Alaska, Longing for that sunny getaway? Live it up while cruising along the Bahamas and Florida's welcoming beaches while touring its other exotic destinations. Breathe deep the sweet and musky scents of the Hawaiian tropics and enjoy its scenic beauty, dramatic volcanoes, Polynesian heritage, and of course, its fabulous beaches.

Sound too good to be true? Joining is easy! Every P500 accumulated valid spend within the promo period using your Metrobank Credit Card entitles you a single raffle entry. Also, Metrobank credit cardholders instantly get a free limited edition stylish bag for a minimum of P10,000 retail spend within one calendar

To make redemption easier, Metrobank Credit Card booths will be present in major malls from now until December. This month, visit Robinson's Galleria, Ermita or Cebu to claim your free limited edition stylish bag.

month!

Metrobank
You're in good hands.

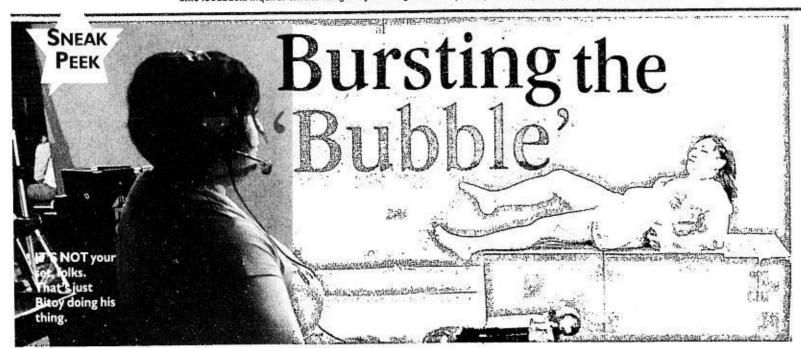
Wirining fantastic rewards is as easy as swiping your Metrobank Credit Card! Promo runs from October 1 to December 31, 2007.

Bag-A-Cruise with Metrobank Credit Card now!

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment



Cast and crew of long-running gag show take comedy seriously

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

ressed in matchtankinis, Michael V. and Ogie Alcasid prepare to parody a TV commercial starring Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo.

Bitoy (as Michael is known in show biz) shares with Ogie some ideas on how to cap the sketch, deftly slipping into a jazzy routine to stress a point.

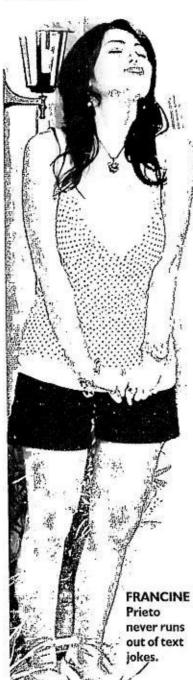
Ogie takes it all in, wordlessly. But when camera grinding, both he and Michael are transformed into 1970s dance duo Aldeguer

Welcome to a typical working day on the set of GMA 7's "Bubble Gang."

"Bitoy and Ogie [work perfectly together] because they never upstage one another," co-star Rufa Mae Quinto explains the secret of the gag show that's celebrating its 12th anniversary this month. "There's give-and-take."

Ogie. agrees: "For us, what is important is the scene, not our personal triumphs as comedians. In any case, roles are distributed

Egos are set aside-if not altogether shredded to bits. He thinks nothing of being Panchito to Bitoy's Dolphy.





OGIE doesn't mind being Panchito to Bitoy's Dolphy.



ARA thinks nothing of being deglamorized in the name of comedy.

Bitoy, who is also the show's creative director, quotes British comic Matt Lucas of "Little Britain" fame: "There's no vanity in comedy." To illustrate, he says, "If you have to look ugly to make people laugh ... so be it.'

Even the female cast members, all sexy stars, are routinely deglamorized.

Co-star Ara Mina points out that she often plays mom to Ogie and Bitoy here-something she wouldn't do just now on the big screen. On occasion, she has even donned a gray wig as Armida Siguion-Reyna.

Ogie recalls that when he first dressed in drag as the Pia Guanio clone, Papaya Guano, he looked like a gorilla. "Regine (Velasquez, his girlfriend) said we should work harder on my makeup," Ogie recounts.

He admits that the objects of their spoofs are not stingy with feedback. "Pia texted me one night: 'Mga walanghiya kayo!' [You're shameless!]"

Bitoy relates that Mike Enriquez, Pia's co-anchor on the newscast "24 Oras," offered constructive criticism for his Michael Ricketts character. "He wanted me to copy everything about him."

Rufa Mae says Mel Tiangco isn't offended by her Bel Tiongco act. "Tita Mel greeted me on my birthday last year on 'SOP"

She watches all of Mel's shows, Rufa Mae brags. "I used to have a BURSTING'F4



Alabang

Quezon City Prince David Condominium

49-A Maxilom Avenue

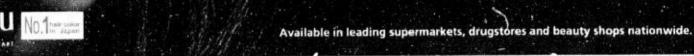
Cebu

Rivergate Complex

SURGICAL CENTER October 1- 31, 2007 Only!!! Rhinoplasty Alarplasty P20,000 **Upper Blepharoplasty** Lower Blepharoplasty Ellen's Aesthelic Center Bidg., # 54 Timog Ave. Q.C.

Be dazzled with GMA's fast-rising starl RHIAN RAMOS





SHOWING



CINEMA O . . (Pasav) tel 833,3290 / 833,3274

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU **RESIDENT EVIL - 3** NO RESERVATIONS

Center Mall Cinema

Jade Cinema

SKINWALKERS

THE BRAVE ONE CHUCK & LARRY

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema a, Bataan) tel (047) 237,700

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

**EVAN ALLMIGHTY** 

CHUCK & LARRY

**RESIDENT EVIL - 3** 

NO RESERVATIONS

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

CINEMA

Movie Theatres of the New Milleni

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

Cinema 2000 Waltermark

(Tariac) tel (045) 982.1725 DISTURBIA

I KNOW WHO KILL ME

DAY WATCH I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Lianas Cinema

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

KIROT SA DIBDIE LIBERATED

SHOOT THEM UP

Lianas MovieCity

KIRIDA

PILYA

DAY WATCH

DISTURBIA

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

IVE FALLEN FOR YOU TUKSO SI CHARITO

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

I KNOW WHO KILL ME

SHOOT THEM UP

PLEASE CALL

THE INVASION

RESERVED

**RESIDENT EVIL 3 CHUCK & LARRY** 

NO RESERVATIONS

NANCY DREW I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU LAST LEGION

CINEMA

--- PRENIERE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makat mart Center, Chine Reces Ave. cor. is Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makali City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

RESIDENT EVIL - 3 NO RESERVATIONS

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU CHUCK & LARRY

rmal

andaluyong) tel. 7266150 RESIDENT EVIL - 3 BYDGT LEVE FALLEN FOR YOU

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU **HOGUE ASSASIN** RESIDENT EVIL - 3 NO RESERVATIONS

THEATRES

SKINWALKERS I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC

DAY WATCH

RESERVED RESERVED

Filinvest

nlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72 CHUCK & LARRY

2 (2004) RESIDENT EVIL - 3 3 (10) NO RESERVATIONS 4 magns UNDERDOG 5 600 pasn RESIDENT EVIL - 3

RESIDENT EVIL - 3 7 MORORA I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 8(353) SHOOT THEM UP

9(碳) I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 10(883) ROGUE ASSASIN

Sto. Mino, Ranking City tel. 9341927

1 (00.51) **RESIDENT EVIL - 3** 2 (00,81) I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3 (00.81) 4 (00.81) RESERVED

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

1 00.50 RESERVED RESERVED RESERVED I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU RESIDENT EVIL - 3

MAKKETPIACE

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU DISTURBIA

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029 PLEASE CALL

SHOOT THEM UP

### **ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE**



www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

moralit lanching consequel constantian

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 • THX 6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

7 THE BRAVE ONE 2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00 1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00

3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 8 indieSine: GULONG 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 4 NO RESERVATION 9 SHOOT 'EM UP

5 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA 10 ROGUE ASSASSIN 12:49 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

exclusive screening at Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Sheree and Allan Paule According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. makes love to her, he will never long for any other

When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and woman Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzel (Jennifer Lee), his griffriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?

NOW SHOWING MTRCB Rating R18





1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

2 SHOOT 'EM UP

12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 RESIDENT EVIL 3 10:10 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

12:00 2:25 4:50 7:10 9:25

7 ROGUE ASSASSIN 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00 GALLERIA . MANILA . METRO EAST .

10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

OCTOBER 7 • Sunday • 8:00AM FREE hotdog, popcorn and drink for every ticket purchased

10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

**5 NO RESERVATION** 

TICKETS are available at the ticket booth TICKET PRICE: P600 (Galleria & Ermita P500 (Metro East) Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

Marko at the 1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 5 ROGUE ASSASSIN 1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 6 THE BRAVE ONE 1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 11:25 1:50 4:10 6:40 9:05

4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 11:20, 1:40 RESIDENT EVIL 3 4:00 6:20 8:40

PACQUIAD® BARRERA II

THOUSE SEC

8 SHOOT 'EM UP 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 m Her Pro / Pro 2 215-2231/835-22-26

**4 DISTURBIA** 

1 THE INVASION

2 A LOVE STORY

3 1408

7 NO RESERVATION

11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3

2 NO RESERVATION

3 SHOOT 'EM UP 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

1 NO RESERVATION 3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45 1:40 4:00 6:20 B:40

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 11:40 1:55 4:10 6:25 8:40

STATE ROSA 1 THE LAST LEGION **2 NANCY DREW** 

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 3 DAYWATCH

DISMARINIS

4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

1 THE BRAVE ONE 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

3 SKINWALKERS

4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 1 DISTURBIA 2 THE HOST 2 THE BRAVE ONE **3 ROGUE ASSASSIN** 3 RESIDENT EVIL 3 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

7.VC = 14=83

4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 5 RUSH HOUR 3 2 ROGUE ASSASSIN **6 THE BRAVE ONE** 3 SKINWALKERS

7:/\@@L@@\ 1 ROGUE ASSASSIN 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

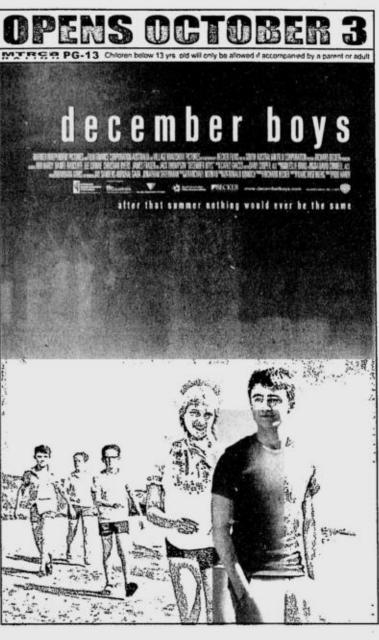
**3 NANCY DREW 4 DISTURBIA 5 WAITRESS** 

**6 LIGAW LIHAM** 

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3 THE BRAVE ONE 4 UNDERDOG **5 SKINWALKERS** 

6 STOMP THE YARD

MONDAY, **OCTOBER 1, 2007** 





# Controversial gay film back

LOS ANGELES—AMERICA IN 1980 was a culture confronting itself. Conservative Ronald Reagan was elected president A in New York City. strongly supporting family values, while at the box office "Cruising" hoped to lure mainstream audiences into seeing a movie featuring graphic gay

Twenty-seven years later, porn films of almost every stripe are easily available. But "Cruising," about a serial killer haunting New York gay bars and S&M joints, seems to have vanished in the intervening

It was a box office flop but drew protests from gay groups, instead of the expected support, and its star, Al Pacino, who plays a straight cop investigating the murders by posing as a gay man, seldom talks about it.

Now the film is hoping for a second life-it is out on DVD after a re-release in theaters in a handful of major cities, and is being heavily touted by director William Friedkin, of "The French Connection" and "The Exorcist" fame.

VE FALLEN

FOR YOU

1:30,3:40,5:50,8:00

NO RESERVATIONS

In a recent discussion, Friedkin said he was still shocked at the backlash he received while filming

"I was amazed at the violent response. It got so bad that we literally gave the crew the call sheets at the last possible moment and reminded them every day

not to tell anyone where we'd be shooting," Friedkin said. "For example, we had an early morning shoot on an isolated street featuring Pacino being approached by a gay man he's met earlier in the evening who may or may not be the killer of several gay victims in the East Village," Friedkin said. "Suddenly hundreds of protesters showed up at 3 a.m. throwing rocks and shouting threats at us."

Pacino has said Friedkin kept him out of the loop when they were making "Cruising."

"Am I the killer at the end of the picture or have I gone gay? To this day I don't know because Friedkin never told me how to play my final scene," Pacino said recently. Reuters

DOLBY DOLBY

NOW PRONOUNCE

YOU CHUCK &

LARRY - R13

12:30,3:00,5:30,

8:00,10:30

NO RESERVATIONS

POWER PLANT

RESIDENT EVIL:

**EXTINCTION** 

R13

1:50,4:00,6:10,

8:20,10:30

SHOOT 'EM UP

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41



'Stomp the Yard'

"STOMP THE YARD," NOW available on VCDs and DVDs (Magnavision), follows the story of DJ (Columbus Short), a troubled

youth who finds solace in joining a fraternity where he finds use for his street-style dance moves.

Throughout his journey, he

learns how to deal with his own troubled past and understands the true meaning of brotherhood. Meagan Good also star.

not an expression but the white a structure i

# 1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!

# CINEPLE

NO RESERVATIONS MTRCB: GP 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

MTRCB: R-13 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

RESIDENT EVIL 3 MTRCB: R-13 12:20, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

PREMIERENTHLATRE

2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30 THE BRAVE ONE (R-13) 1:15, 3:50, 6:25, 9:00

NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK and LARRY

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

The Most Awaited Fight is Onl
The Will to Win "PACQUIAO vs BARRERA"
Super Featherweight Championship
on OCTOBER 7, 2007 (SUNDAY) - 8:00 AM (MANILA TIME)
Live Via Satellite from
Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
Cinema Gates Open at 7:00 AM - Ticket Price: P 600.00

6th floor. Shengri-La Plaza Mail EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City Call 633-7851. loc. 171/170 or 633-2227

Shangri-La Plaza





MARKET

MARKET!

TriNoma





wietta GREENBELT

TOWN

AYALA CENTER

Bitoy's body double in

a skit.

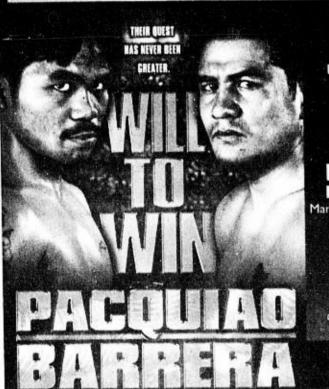






Your life as a movie

SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE | BIG MOVIES - BIG STARS - BIG SHOWS - BIG EVENTS



Watch our country's very own Manny Pacquiao collide with Marco Antonio Barrera in a 12-round super featherweight fight on the big screen October 7 (Sunday) 8:00 a.m.

LIVEVIA SATELLITE NO COMMERCIAL BREAKS Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

All SM Cinemas nationwide

**BUY YOURTICKETS NOW!** 

P 500 (Reserved Seats) P 400 (Guaranteed Seats)

### SM MALL OF ASIA IMAX

DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250 1:00 PM • 2:30 PM • 5:30 PM • 7:00PM • 8:30PM Admission Price: P250 T-REX 3D

LI I NOW PRONDUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY RESIDENT EVIL

INO RESERVATIONS

ROGUE ASSASSIN SUNDERDOG 6 THE BRAVE ONE

> PREMIERE CINEMA I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU CENTERSTAGE RESIDENT EVIL

DIRECTOR'S CLUB Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314. 6 SHOOT EM' UP

### PODIUM CINEMA 1

RESIDENT EVIL CINEMA 2 NO RESERVATION For ticket reservations, dial 6338976 SM CITY STA. MESA

SM NORTH EDSA

929-5452

Sele J I I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU. 1 ROGUE ASSASSIN

4 RESIDENT EVIL

6 RESIDENT EVIL

9 UNDERDOG

10 1408

RUSH HOUR 3

1 NO RESERVATIONS

SI'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 7 NO RESERVATIONS

& I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

11 SHOOT EM' UP

### METRO MANILA

556-0104 SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901 1 ROGUE ASSASSIN 2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU GRUCK & LARRY RESIDENT EVIL A RESIDENT EVIL 5 THE BRAVE ONE 6 NO RESERVATION 7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

8:1408 RESIDENT EVIL 10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

II SHOOT EM' UP 12 RUSH HOUR 3 935-0749 SM CITY FAIRVIEW

LUNDERDOG RESIDENT EVIL 3 A LOVE STORY

4 ROGUE ASSASSIN 51408 7 RESIDENT EVIL

MRESIDENT EVIL II NO RESERVATION 12:THE BRAVE ONE

RESIDENT EVIL ROGUE ASSASSIN NO RESERVATION SI'VE FALLEN FOR YOU STHE BRAVE ONE 7 SHOOT EM' UP

BI KNOW WHO KILLED ME 9 1408 INUNDERDOG SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

RESIDENT EVIL 2 NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY ROGUE ASSASSIN 4:1408/CARTOON NETWORK SNO RESERVATION 6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

### 806-6888 SM SOUTHMALL

RESIDENT EVIL I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY ROGUE ASSASSIN NO RESERVATION

RESERVED 7:I KNOW WHO KILLED ME SHOOT EM' UP **SUNDERDOG** 

776-3055 **SM CITY BICUTAN** RESIDENT EVIL LI'VE FALLEN FOR YOU EL NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

ROGUE ASSASSIN SM CITY MANILA 523-9240 1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LAKEN 2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME ROGUE ASSASSIN 8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU SNO RESERVATION RESIDENT EVIL 1408

BDISTURBIA THE BRAVE ONE INRUSH HOUR 3 IIUNDERDOG 12: I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04 I RESIDENT EVIL ZI'VE FALLEN FOR YOU THE BRAVE ONE RESIDENT EVIL/DISTURBIA

SM VALENZUELA RESIDENT EVIL ROGUE ASSASSIN I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

829-4975

I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU RESIDENT EVIL **4ROGUE ASSASSIN** 

SM CITY SUCAT

### SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

I I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARR EUNDERDOG RESIDENT EVIL FI'VE FALLEN FOR YOU FROGUE ASSASSIN &THE HOST RESIDENT EVIL SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45 ROGUE ASSASSIN THE BRAVE ONE I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

**(I'VE FALLEN FOR YOUU** ERUSH HOUR 3 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17 **!** UNDERDOG

NANCY DREW I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

ROGUE ASSASSIN

THE LAST LEGION

THE LAST LEGION

**EROGUE ASSASSIN** 

LI'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

RESIDENT EVIL

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

SM CITY DAVAG

UNDERDOG

*EDISTURBIA* 

SUNDERDOG

(082)2976998

I KNOW WHO KILLED MESM CITY STA. ROSA DISTURBIA **EDAYWATCH** 

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

DISTURBIA II'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3SKINWALKERS #DAYWATCH

- LUZON .

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85 **ISKINWALKERS** THE BRAVE ONE ROGUE ASSASSIN 

\$1 NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY **FI'VE FALLEN FOR YOU** (043) 784-0187 {ROGUE ASSASSIN SM CITY LIPA

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80 LI'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

DISTURBIA 3SKINWALKERS FNANCY DREW

BLIND DATING

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39 LNANCY DREW I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU RESIDENT EVIL NO RESERVATION

(049)5349811 FTHE LAST LEGION

¿ I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU **₹ROGUE ASSASSIN** 

### VISAYAS WINDANAG

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422 HINVASION RESERVED SKINWALKERS I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU THE BRAVE ONE FROGUE ASSASSIN RESERVED ETHE LAST LEGION

(032)231-3876 SM CITY CEBU THE BRAVE ONE

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY IRESIDENT EVIL **₹ROGUE ASSASSIN** I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 6THE LAST LEGION 江'VE FALLEN FOR YOU \*RESIDENT EVIL SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010 EI'VE FALLEN FOR YOU ROGUE ASSASSIN NANCY DREW

DISTURBIA SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

# JUNK foods galore—especially useful for marathon meetings and tapings.



SUFFERING for their art: Ogle and Bitoy get made up as Papaya Guano and Michael Ricketts, respectively.



DIANA Zubiri surfs the Net between takes.

# Bursting...

From page F1

sketch called 'Magpa K Man Lang."

Clearly, there are no sacred cows for the "Bubble" crew.

Cast members don't fret when they become targets, Ogie insists. "Sometimes, on 'Chaka Minute,' I joke about myself. We hit many people. Why should I be spared?"

Unfunny turns

Not everyone is laughing, though.

Bitoy says at least one celebrity has complained. "[Singer] LA Lopez sued us. Nothing happened to the case."

An advertiser made a fuss.

"We've been doing spoofs of commercials since the early days," Bitoy recalls. "We had to stop for a while after a coffee company complained. But then 'Ispup' on ABC 5 was freely doing ad spoofs [from 2000 to 2004]."

Bitoy and company fought to have the segment back. "We made our ad spoofs bigger and

EXPERIENCE

October 1-31, 2007

WIN two (2) travel

packages to Macau!

See posters and flyers for detail

Per OTI-NCR Permit no. A3-0767. Series of 200

Eastwood City

FASTWOOD

**PACQUIAO** 

vs

Barrera II

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

687-6963

GUARANTEED SEATS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRICE N

better."

Executive producer Camille Hermoso says "creative independence" is valued on the show. "Only the creative team decides which com-

mercials will be parodied." "A sponsor once asked us to spoof its commercial," Bitoy recounts. Naturally, the sponsor interfered in the process. "Lots of punch lines were disapproved. That's why we decided to maintain creative control over our material."

Hermoso says Jet Li's beer commercial has been the most challenging spoof material so far. "It took us almost six hours- to think, the segment's running time was only one minute and thirty seconds."

"That's because we try to copy the material frame by frame every time," Bitoy explains.

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU

CHUCK AND LARRY

1:55, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15

R-13

**RESIDENT EVIL 3** 

1:35, 3:40, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00

R-13

**NO RESERVATIONS** 

3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:50

G

Xxxxxxx (SIII)

Bitoy and Ogie's tandem first made its mark on the ABC 5 gag show "Tropang Trumpo."

It took a lot of convincing for the duo to

make the big move to GMA 7 in 1995, recalls Marivin Arayata, program manager and vice president for Entertainment TV.

"Bitoy was difficult to track down," she remembers.

Apart from the money, it was the prospect of having more "creative control" that attracted Bitoy and Ogie. "We were liberat-

ed from oppression," Bitoy jests. Ogie looks back: "I ·

told Bitoy: We've hit the big time. But it was also make-orbreak for us-a painful decision." Adding to the

drama, backstage ABS-CBN made a counter-offer. "Saling pusa lang

kami noon sa ABS-CBN," Bitoy says. (Apart from the ABC 5 gag show, they had minor hosting gigs at

**BURSTING/F6** 



### A FILM BY SOCKIE FERNANDEZ

GULONG is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point-of-view of Apao, a smart, kindhearted boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of. With him on this adventure are his insan

Momoy and his best friend Tom-Tom. The story begins with a question: How are our 3 friends going to spend their summer vacation? Tom-Tom suggests that they go to his uncle's

fishpond, an hour bike ride from where they live. Apao and Momoy have a problem as they don't own a bike! There are no jeeps and it is too far to walk. Momoy finds an old bicycle but, the owner, an old woman named Tita Maggie, will only give it to him if he pays her a hundred pesos. He agrees and promises to come back with the money the next day. This starts a

series of events which affects Apao, his friends, his family and even his community. In the end, a discarded 40-year old bicycle connects the past to present and becomes a catalyst for healing old wounds and reviving a love affair that has long been left for dead

HOIESINE

MTRCB Rating: G

Watch this only at Robinson's Movieworld Galleria September 22 to October 02



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT \$M CINEM

# ENTERT INMENT

# Learning from others to improve local show biz

ON THE LOCAL ENTERTAINment scene, there's a lot of room for improvement. But what changes should be put in effect, and how? To answer this question, we can follow the example set by show biz or- Nestor ganizations elsewhere:

For instance, local entertainment awards rites are often dampened by the absence of many awardees, who fail to make it to awards ceremonies for one reason or other. How to put an end to these embarrassing snubs?

Why don't we do things the Emmy way? At the recent Emmy Awards, Ricky Gervais was declared Best Actor in a Comedy Series but since he wasn't present, the award was given to Steve Carell!

Gervais was the lone absentee. Other nominees knew that the

VIEWFINDER

Emmy Awards group enforced its rules, and nobody else wanted to forfeit his or her victory.

U. Torre

Perhaps local awards groups could impose the same rule of "no show, no award." That would make nominees give awards the importance and respect they by rights should have.

Still on the subject of show biz awards, have you noticed how much they've increased in the past decade? This is ironic, since during this same period, local film

production drastically went harmful touchstones for industry down, and the quality of movies produced similarly dipped.

So, we now have the disheartening situation of "too few films, too many awards"! How to rationalize this irrational situation?

Media outlets abroad handle similar situations by evaluating the awards groups involved, and rating them according to relative objectivity and credibility.

In other words, they give maximum coverage to the most credible awards, and give short shrift to the tainted honors, thus minimizing their impact on the public. Can local media outlets be as astute and refuse to publicize the dubious awards we have?

This is an important consideration, because awards are supposed to set standards, and hokey awards provide wrong and even

people and the listening and viewing public to look up to.

It's terribly galling when mediocre artists boast of the awards they've gotten, dubious though they may be, and the clueless public looks up to them as outstanding practitioners of various media crafts or perform-

A third area that cries out for improvement is the unauthorized "cannibalization" of films by documentaries and other TV shows, to illustrate whatever those programs want to dramatize.

In other countries, this can't happen, because productions are strongly protected by copyright laws that are strictly enforced.

Here, enforcement is generally lax, so TV people have little compunction about giving movies the

"chop-chop" treatment, excising only the bits and pieces that suit their purposes, sometimes without permission from the butchered movies' producers.

This is a lazy way to make a documentary or other TV show, so erring TV people should be chastised for it. More, they should be charged for copyright violation and slapped with the appropriate penalties, to dissuade other "cannibals" from being so cavalier and ignorant of the rights of authors and producers.

### On National Geographic Channel

Oct. 3 at 9 p.m., "Situation Critical: Downed Pilot." Oct. 4 at 9 a.m., "Megacities: Taipei." Oct. 10 at 9 p.m., "Situation Critical: Hell on High Water (disaster at the 54th Sydney to Hobart yacht

race). Oct. 11 at 9 p.m., "Ancient Megastructures: The Egyptian Pyramids." Oct. 15 at 9 p.m., "Space Mysteries: Comets-Target Earth?" Oct. 20 at 10 p.m., "Farther Than the Eye Can See" (on blind athlete Erik Weihenmayaar's conquest of Mt. Ever-

### At Alchemy

Alchemy (708-1305) at Frontera Verde Drive, Ortigas Center entertainment offers three venues: The O Lounge, the Liquid Bar and the Vapor Club. The O Lounge features Caliph8 on Mondays, Verden and the Allstars on Tuesdays, DJs Anna Barcelona and Rodney Martinez on Wednesdays, The Jody Lee Project Band on Thursdays, DJ Jason Soong on Fridays, and Curve on Saturdays.

# Merk's marks a milestone

### Jazz, disco, Motown on a Thursday night

By Pocholo Concepcion Photos by Rodel Rotoni

"I FEEL LIKE A WIDE-EYED CHILD AGAIN," quipped Richard Merk, as he hugged and greeted guests at the fifth anniversary party of his baby venture, Merk's Bar Bistro, at Greenbelt 3, Makati.

The live music venue, marketed as a destination for good food as well, has gained a reputation for gathering some of the best Pinoy jazz musicians especially on Wednesday nights, when pianist Romy Posadas, bassist Roger Herrera, percussionist Bo Razon, vibes master Eddie Katindig and Richard himself on vocals, are joined by young blood like sax player Alvin Cornista.

But this celebration fell on a Thursday and the band onstage, Route 70, was poised to play light party music. That meant disco numbers as in "Trapped in a Stairway" and other 1970s dance floor staples.

### Show stoppers

Richard's sister, New Jersey-based Rachel Ann Wolfe, here to promote a selfpenned CD, seemed to relive her teenage days as she sang more disco stuff from Alicia Bridges and Gloria Gaynor.

covers of The Fifth Dimension, Temptations



RICKY Davao and Richard Merk



**DUTCH Director of Migration and Asylum** Han Mauritz Schaapveld and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr.



and a slew of '60s classics. The crowd lapped up everything they heard and even clapped along to an upbeat Barry Manilow medley.

But when Arthur Manuntag went on stage to jam, nobody knew what hit them. The power of his voice was so compelling, women in the audience got up and danced.

"That was 'Vehicle' by the group Ides of March," Arthur replied when we asked if it was a Blood, Sweat & Tears tune.

Ricky Davao was called next, and before we could even shout, "Rock and roll," he had started to groove with Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love."

Then it occurred to us that love had a lot Things got interesting with Route 70's to do with the inception and success of a club like Merk's. The owner's love for music is genuine and admirable, stamped on his very genes by his mother, Annie (Brazil), and encouraged no end by his wife, Roni, who stood in the sidelines during the party to mind the guests.

> Just when it looked like the night would end with nothing more than the memory of pleasure, Richard led the band with his version of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On."

> It was punctuated by fun ad libs, yet Richard was lucid enough to remind us that music could, indeed, go beyond entertain-



**RACHEL Ann Wolfe** 



ARTHUR Manuntag and Cory Quirino



RONI Merk and daughter Manna

### Musical comedy

CENTERstage Musi-Thecal ater, in cooperation with Ate-Blue neo Repertory, will stage next year

the rock 'n' roll musical comedy

"All Shook Up," which opened on Broadway in 2005. The musical includes the

songs from the King of Rock Elvis Presley.

Auditions for all roles in the show will be held Oct. 20 at the Fine Arts Theater, 3rd floor Gonzaga Bldg., Ateneo De Manila University, and Oct. 21 at the Penthouse of the Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road Ortigas Center Pasig City, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ROUNDUP

The show will open Feb. 1 at the AFP Theater. Call 6346488.

### Benefit concert

MEXICO CITY-Hip-hop group Black Eyed Peas put on a benefit concert in Mexico Friday night to raise money for local children who can't afford a decent education.

"It feels good to be able to help the youth because at one point in time we were teenagers who loved getting involved with the arts and there wasn't really that many programs in East LA, where I'm from," said band front man Will.i.am at a news conference before the show at Mexico City's National Auditori-

Proceeds will fund educational programs for some 1,500 kids, said the group that recorded the albums "Elephunk" and "Monkey

### ABS-CBN airs tribute to FPJ

A TRIBUTE TO THE 'King of Philippine Cinema," Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ), will air Oct. 20.

Called "Cinema FPJ -Da King on ABSblockbuster movies such as "Panday," "Roman Rapido," "Eseng ng Tondo," "Kahit "Eseng

Konting Pagtingin" and "Isusumbong Kita sa Tatay Ko."

ABS-CBN recently acquired the FPJ library of movies after sealing an agreement with the late action star's widow, actress Susan Roces.

The movie library includes all films that FPJ starred in, directed and produced.



THE SARAZA Family



CBN," it will feature SUSAN Roces, center, and daughter Grace Poe-Llamanzares, right, with network executives Leng Raymundo, Eugenio Lopez III and Cory Vidanes

ABS-CBN will also air this December a never before seen music video that the actor was

working on before he CLICK! died.

### Renowned violinists

The Saraza Family, renowned violinists, will perform in episode 5 of "Power to Unite with Elvira," hosted by Elvira Yap-Go and aired every Tuesday night, 7-7:30 on NBN 4. The theme is "Love is Not Selfish-Social Transformation."

Rev. Antonieto D. Cabajog, bishop of Surigao, is special guest. Also featured is the Javiniar family of Antipolo City.

# Secretly straight and squirming twosome

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit Contributor

LIKE MANY OF THE OTHER ADAM Sandler comedies, "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry" can be painfully juvenile. But as with most titles in his filmography, it can also be a timekilling guilty pleasure. Directed by frequent collaborator Dennis Dugan, the movie cashes in on contemporary gay issues, while utilizing obligatory loads of slapstick and crass punchlines. So yes, it's more of the same, but we get Sandler and his usual gaggle of comedians playing characters that, this time, react to some touchy

lifestyle topics. Sandler's done pretty much the same confused jerk role before, so his Chuck, a New York fireman and bimbo-magnet, isn't anything different. He's quite homophobic, too. But he proves that he's willing to be openminded when a longtime work buddy, the widower Larry (Kevin James from

"King of Queens"), convinces him to fake a gay union to fix an insurance claim oversight. Larry persuades Chuck to be his pseudo-domestic partner for the benefit of his kids. The lothario nervously, but generously, signs all pertinent documents.

They're forced to live together when their partnership's authenticity is questioned. So we have straight guys acting and talking gay in front of others, but squirming through the process. It's not always funny.

### Fumbling

Gender identity jokes have been done better in other films and many TV sitcoms like "Will and Grace."

There's also the old angle where the straight guy pretends to be gay to be near the girl of his dreams. In previous comedies starring Sandler, the love interest plays a crucial part in the equation. Here, Jessica Biel plays the fake couple's lawyer, Alex, who doesn't suspect a thing, especially not

Chuck's growing attraction to her. As with any story that involves se-

crets, you just know that everything will be exposed in due time. But "Chuck and Larry" gets too stretched and quite dull in parts when the "lovers" are investigated. It reaches a point that almost feels as if it's fumbling and grasping for a proper resolution. And it feels especially strange that situations become uncomfortably serious, that whatever passes for humor in such scenes is just sucked out or rendered ineffective.

In this particular movie, however, some of the laughs come from unexpected places. Various misfits colorfully expand Chuck and Larry's world. Nick Swardson (the stalker from "Blades of Glory") plays Alex's loud-and-proud brother. Almost unrecognizable is Rob Schneider as the mop-topped, bespectacled minister. Robert Smigel deadpans as the mailman with unrequited feelings, while Ving Rhames plays Duncan, the

toughie fireman with a secret. Oh, and look out for singer Dave Matthews as a fey dress shop guy.

### Checklist

"Chuck and Larry" goes through a checklist of elements that pertain to the gay lifestyle; brief glimpses at personal metamorphoses, the fellowships, the romantic bonds, and the creative outlets of some gay people are shown. If anything, each of the characters quickly establishes his sexuality early on, so collectively, they're true to themselves through the course of the story. Gay romance, sadly, is still outlandish or weird

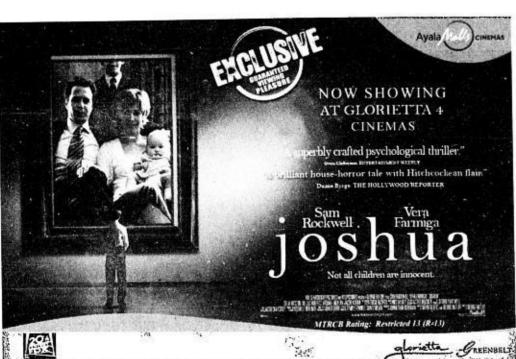
to some people (it's strange which unfunny parts get giggles), but that fact is reflected in the movie; too.



KEVIN James, left, and Adam Sandler as

**Larry and Chuck** 

MARK Herras and Maureen Larrazabal get ready for a sketch.





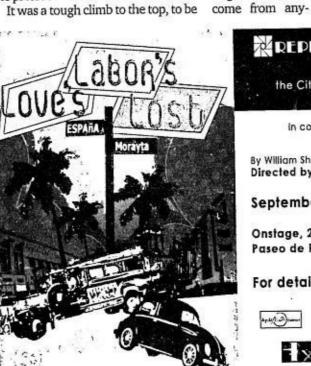
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph



Ogie opines.

Bitoy relates that

bright ideas can



THEIR QUEST

in the Friday night prime time slot,"

says Bitoy. "But that also meant that

the pressure was on."

REPERTORY DHILIDDINES the City of Makati and In cooperation with By William Shakespeare

Directed by Bart Guingona

September 15 to October 7, 2007

Onstage, 2nd Flr., Greenbelt 1, Paseo de Roxas cor. Legaspi St., Makati City

For details call 887-0710 or 891-9999

No Commercial Breaks! Larger Than Life! Guaranteed Seats!

THE MOST AWAITED FIGHT IS ON!

Giorietta 4 • Greenbelt 3 • Giorietta 1 Alabang Town Center • Market! Market! Ayala Center Cebu • Trinoma

**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!** 



LIVE VIA SATELLITE







Director Uro de la Cruz says "Bubble" is not afraid to embrace new technologies. "Texting has democratized comedy. Now, everyone can be a comedian. As gag show writers, we shouldn't

be threatened. We

should always be

one. "Ara suggested

that we spoof Ricky Reyes' shampoo ads.

Antonio Aquitania thought up Sex Balls, our spoof of the Sex

"When we get text jokes, we share them

"Francine [Prieto] never runs out of text

jokes. Sometimes she

texts us in the early morning hours. That's

why everyone hates her," Bitoy jests.

with the writers," says

Bomb Dancers."

aware of the latest." He points out that the show has chumed out spoofs of everything, from MTV (Music Tagalog Version) to YouTube (IyoTube).

### Back to basics

But there is also a need to go back to basics. Uro asserts. "I always tell my writers to hang out in public. markets, ride jeepneys, go to Quiapo and Sta. Cruz to see what Filipinos are laughing at."

There's a science to their craft, says head writer Cesar Cosme.

Each episode is a product of regular brainstorming, relates Cosme, more popularly known as Bro. Willy, sidekick of Brod Pete in "Dating Doon."

"I meet with Bitov and seven other writers once a week over lunch in a restaurant," he says. "We spend hours just shooting the breeze, and get down to business only in the last 30 minutes."

The show's 12th anniversary special, "Bubble Gang the Movie for TV," is the product of one such meeting.

"We came up with an action-musical," Bitoy quips, "with a gay man as lead."

Bitoy wrote 11 songs for the two-part special, airing on the last two Fridays of October: "But I left room for Ogie's suggestions," he says. "I heard the songs

in the recording studio," adds Ogie. "I even sang backup on some of the tracks." It's apparent that

Ogie has checked in his ego at the door. "It's all about mak-

ing the show better," Ogie affirms. Yes, indeed, there's no vanity in comedy.

IN CINEMAS OCTOBER 3 (WEDNESDAY)





Invite you to the advance screening of

# december boys

October 1, 2007 (Monday) 7:30pm



Glorietta 4 - Cinema 1

















MTRCB Rating: PG-13

